Foreign Broadcast Information Service

Daily Report

Supplement

Near East & South Asia

IRAN:
Majles Sessions

FBIS-NES-92-227-S
Tuesday
24 November 1992

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SUPPLEMENT
IRAN
Majles Sessions

FBIS-NES-92-227-S 24 November 1992

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

4 Oct

FM0221144492 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Oct 92 pp 5, 14

[Unattributed report on 4 Oct 92 open session of the Majles]

[Text] Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles had an open session yesterday morning. Deputies from Eqlid, Yazd, and Jiroft gave speeches, then the Majles went into session. We draw your attention to the speeches and a report on the session.

Ahmad Nikfar, Deputy From Eqlid and Sar Had Chahar Dangeh: It Is Up to 1 Billion Islamic Ummah To Defend the Pure Islam of the Prophet, Just as Islamic Iran Has Done

The first pro-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Ahmad Nikfar from the constituency of Eqlid and Sarhad Chahar Dangeh who made a speech conveying his respect for the holy spirit of the Hidden Imam—may God expedite his return—the lofty spirit of the departed Imam, the great leader, and the aware ummah of Islamic Iran, who are always present on the scenes. He said: Without a doubt the aware ummah of Islamic Iran who seek God, will continue to listen to the orders of the great leader of the revolution. Alongside the armed forces and Jihad volunteers, who are willing to give their lives, they will strive to safeguard the achievements gained by the pure blood of the martyrs. As before, God will be the friend of the children of the Imam and all those who safeguard God's religion.

The speaker talked about the anniversary of the Imam's voyage from Iraq to Paris and said: Tomorrow is the anniversary of this trip taken by the true child of Imam Husayn, when the Imam went from Iraq to Paris. The people of Iran are like the children of the Imam and followers of Imam Husayn—peace be unto him and his family. From this holy microphone, I tell the world aggressors and the Great Satan, the criminal United States, that: we have learned our lessons from Husayn's Ashura and the life history of the great leader of our revolution, which is nothing but struggle and resistance. Not only we do not fear hardship, but we have also developed thick skins during the revolution and we are willing to defend Islam, the revolution, and Iran's territorial integrity to the last drop of our blood. He said: The attitude of the bully United States, international organizations, and some European countries, such as Britain, with regard to Bosnia-Hercegovina, their support for the Serbs and their all-out support for the regime occupying Jerusalem, makes them accomplices in the murder and expulsion of the Palestinians. Their support and material help for corrupt and occupying regimes in countries such as Egypt and Algeria in order to crush Islamic movements in those areas all indicate the fear of world aggression from pure Islam. It is up to the 1 billion Islamic ummah to seek their identity and defend their Islamic dignity, just as Islamic Iran did, under the banner of the pure Islam of the Prophet.

The speaker then talked about the tricks used by the United States to confront Islam and Muslims. He said: The criminal United States one day imposed a war on the Islamic revolution through the Ba'athist Saddam and another day started an oil war. One day it confiscated a ship containing goods for the Islamic Republic regime and today it brings up the issue of Abu Musa island. The problem of Hijaz and Qatar is also an effort to make the Middle East more insecure so that it can loot the wealth of the region's Muslims in a more efficient manner, to prevent unity among the ranks of the Muslims.

He stressed: The United States should know that the 1 billion Muslims of the world have recognized the path that they should take, by obeying Islam and by learning from the Islamic revolution. They think of nothing but Islam. This sort of plot undertaken by the United States will only create a nuisance for us and will last only for a short time.

Mr. Nikfar commented on the eight years of holy defense by Islamic Iran and said: Islamic Iran resisted and fought for eight years in an imposed war despite the fact that they had attacked with all aggression along more than 1,200 km of our frontiers. It proved that it had the necessary power to safeguard its territorial integrity. Therefore it is up to the regimes and the people in the southern neighboring nations not to forget the heroism of the brave men of the armed forces, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps [IRGC], and the jihad volunteers in Iran. They should learn a lesson from the outcome of the imposed war so that they will not fall into a well with the help of a rope thrown to them by the enemies of Islam.

The speaker addressed the people in the Persian Gulf region and said: Dear people, fellow Muslims of countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, you should know that just as the great leader of the revolution has said and just as the Islamic Republic has announced, we do not want more territory. We just seek greater glory for Islam throughout the world. This is why it is necessary to observe the principles of good-neighborly relations and not to create a permanent presence for world aggression along your borders. The military presence of the monstrous United States in the Persian Gulf will destroy the lives, property, and dignity of the people who have brought this about, long before it can create a nuisance factor for Iran. This is an important lesson that the people of Hijaz discovered during the oil war.

The deputy for the people of Eqlid continued: The mass media under the control of colonialists and puppet elements in this country, who have lost their credibility among the people, are trying to make it look as if there are differences of opinion among the officials of the Islamic Republic. With their cultural onslaught and by creating insecurity, they want to make the ummah in

islamic Iran too disappointed to deliver a blow to the revolution. They hope to do this by playing down the people's role. But they do not know that these people are united and that when they see slogans of unity in the streets, they mean it.

The speaker stressed that the peoples' representatives in the Majles support and cooperate more and more with the great government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to achieve the goals of the revolution. He added: Of course this does not mean that we will not carry out our religious duty to resolve problems or make up for the shortcomings. That would be the wish of those inside and outside the country who talk about the differences among officials of the regime, and it is a wish that they must take to their graves with them.

The deputy from Eqlid and Sarkuh Chahar Dangeh thanked the people of his constituency for trusting him once again and electing him to the Majles. He gave the following details regarding his area:

1. I ask the executive officials, especially the Plan and Budget Organization, to exchange contracts for welfare projects before the middle of March each year and to provide credit for cold areas in the first six months of the year, in accordance with regulations.

2. I would like to ask the Ministry of Petroleum to speed up the implementation of the plan to provide piped gas to the towns of Eqlid, Abadeh, and Semirom, which are usually the coldest towns in the country. The plans have been drawn and researched since 1988 and the equipment has been purchased.

3. I would like to ask the light of the people's eyes, the trusted friend of the Imam and the leader, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to praise the efforts of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for the studies they have completed on suitable locations for the creation of university campuses and so forth. This has prevented manpower and funds from going to waste. The president should order that these plans be implemented with regard to the creation of new university campuses as well as new urban areas to take in migration into large towns. In this manner the creation of several small Tehrans will be prevented and Tehran itself will no longer grow out of control. Hidden talents in this area will also have a chance to bloom.

4. I ask the Voice of Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to pay attention to artists and to produce films that are suitable for an Islamic society. They should not broadcast foreign films that are not suitable for an Islamic society. They must start producing films that show the progress of the revolution, the bravery of all the Iranian people in creating and safeguarding the revolution. That way the children of the revolution will find their way and they will not fall into the trap of Western culture. Second, since the academic year has started, the programs on the Voice and Vision should be in such a way that they would not damage the children's education. Of course, I am not saying that there should not be one or two entertaining programs during the day. I stress that some of the films not only do not teach anything, but also create disappointment in young people.

Sayyed Mohammad Pak-nejad, Deputy From Yazd, Vows Must Guarantee the Physical and Mental Health of Young People by Creating Parks and Cultural and Sports Centers

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Sayyed Mohammad Pak-nejad, the deputy from Yazd, thinking of the one thing that all good people and all of God's people are thinking about. I do not want them to say, after I have gone, that I was only a simple deputy. You feel the same way. I want to say that this cry for justice was also heard in the house of Imam 'Ali—peace be unto him and his family. This is Imam 'Ali's house of justice, this Majles, which the late Imam said was the result of the people's wisdom. It is the price of the blood of martyrs and eight years of holy defense and 10 years of captivity for your brother and sister POW's. Our Muslim people are thirsty for Imam 'Ali's justice at all levels of society. This is the light of hope for all Muslim people and the brave youth of our Islamic homeland. This young generation will stand in front of these same microphones in the not- too-distant future and will understand our actions today. Today we face an all-out cultural onslaught from the West. What sort of weapon have we provided for our young people to fight off this attack? Yesterday they were in school and they had powerful weapons in their hands, but today their hands are empty. I was captive for 10 years and was only freed because of the power of these same young people who set me free, allowing me to stand with you here. I do not want to be the only spokesman for young people in Iran, because each of you deputies is in turn a representative of young people in your own area. Allow me to be the spokesman for these young people and jihad volunteers who formed the successful and victorious team of "Al-Qadir-e Yazd," who along with other young people from Yazd, gave their blood to defend their revolution. A young person in Yazd does not have even minimal sports, leisure, or cultural facilities. It is true that flowers do not bloom in the desert but in the desert of Yazd there are plenty of young people who have sprouted out of the ground. Let us keep these people standing upright. You can ensure their mental and physical well-being by building parks and cultural and sports facilities. The enemy is lurking in the corner, to trap young men who are innocent, pious, and religious. It is our duty to be grateful for their service and their martyrdom. We must hand over a prosperous, free, and independent country to future generations but this needs constant work, effort, and proper planning in executive matters and must have proper management.

He continued: Now that the government is preparing the second program, it is necessary to look into and learn from the weak spots and the mistakes. We must lessen the weak points and evaluate and strengthen the strong points in terms of planning, budget, execution, and management. In this process there must be something

drew to involve the people in the various stages of planning. This is because they know their own problems better than anyone else. They may even have suggestions on how to resolve these problems in such a way as to utilize precious resources in a more efficient way. They can offer solutions in order to solve their own problems and to have a share in this sense. This means that among the population there is a valuable treasure of knowledge and willpower, which can and must be used for growth and expansion purposes. But in order to use such resources, the people themselves must participate in the planning and execution of the development programs.

He added: In planning, we must plan with the people, not for the people. There is a lot of difference between planning for an uncertain entity and planning with the people themselves. If we plan for the people, we make them more dependent. If we plan with them, we increase their self-respect. We must encourage mutual dependence and this is the duty of all officials and experts throughout the country at different levels. The mechanism for implementing this process must be reviewed in detail and a bill for its implementation must be given to the Majlis so that, coinciding with the beginning of the second plan, the structure of the people's participation in various development projects can be determined. We must remember that the construction of basic physical structures, such as roads, schools, hospitals, sports grounds, and cultural facilities, will only increase development. But development is something that has to do with the people themselves. In medium-term economic and social programs, there are only a few executive problems that have been addressed, yet we see many problems in the process of implementation. This means that after the implementation of each program, the shortages of the various organs in each sector exaggerate the contradictions. For example, the critical shortage of building materials, manpower, and so forth takes up the time of executive officials, who should be spending their time implementing the projects, not solving problems. So the plan does not get implemented and the crisis does not get resolved. We have to think along broad lines when it comes to handling our resources. We must not allow the nation's scarce resources to be geared toward projects that are not fundamental.

Dr. Pak-najad then added: At this time, we give our thanks to the president. We are sure that the lack of water in Yazd will be resolved with your willpower. We also know that you pay special attention to the shrine for culture, the spiritual and emotional as well as physical well-being of the young people in Yazd.

In conclusion he thanked all those who were involved in the project in Yazd to provide piped water.

*Ali Zadeh, Deputy From Jiroft: Eight Years of Holy Defense by the Iranian People Is the Best Way To Prove the Greatness of Khomeyni's Brave Ummah

*Ali Zadeh, deputy from Jiroft, the last pre-agenda speaker, commented on the anniversary of the voyage undertaken by the departed Imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited. He said: Tomorrow is 5 October, the 13th anniversary of the forced voyage by a brave man from the family of the prophets and their children and a true child of the Hidden Imam—may God expedite his return. This dear man came to seek what was right and to correct the plague-ridden ummah of his land.

From the dawn and west to Imam Hussayn—peace be upon him and his family—he went to the land of the infidels. From the West and a French village he started to guide believers and became the spearhead of liberation for those who believed in the rule of the jurisconsult. His spirit was the spirit of God in the body of time. May his path of the Prophet be ever more glorious and everlasting under the leadership of the great and wise man Grand Ayatollah Khomeyni's. [aide as published]

My speech is the message of all the great martyrs, the cries of all free men, the request of jihad volunteers, the armed forces, the security forces, and all the Islamic ummah in Iran. I address the strong arm of the leader of the revolution, the wise and learned man, the popular president, and all those who safeguard the territorial integrity of powerful, big, Islamic Iran, the land of blood, dignity, revolt, and martyrdom. Dear officials, stand up straight. Shoot like thunder and come crashing down on the heads of the sworn enemies of the holy Islamic revolution, the world oppressors. To try and test something that has already been tried and tested is wrong. Eight years of holy defense by the Iranian people was the best way to prove the greatness, resistance, and bravery of Khomeyni's ummah. Make them believe that we are the children of Hussayn of Karbala' and followers of Khomeyni, descendants of Zahra—peace be unto her and her family. We are the soldiers of the commander in chief of the armed forces. The Tomb islands and Abu Musa are part of Islamic and powerful Iran. Brave Iranians will blind all eyes who look upon their lands with envious eyes and will never ever give up one inch of their territory.

He then said: You, dear people, your brave defense and the story of your manly resistance, your bitter and bloody history stands against the history of a so-called civilized Europe in 1992, which is savage and untamed in its soul. Your history will cause future generations to hate Europe. Until the end of time, the memory of the brave people of Bosnia-Herzegovina will have a special place. Future generations will praise your greatness, your bravery. They will think of your holy defense as just. So rely on God and fight like men, because blood will be victorious over the sword and Muslim Bosnians will win over the infidel Serbs.

Zadeh added: I would like to take this opportunity to express my condolences over the martyrdom of the innocent and dear brother who was a jihad volunteer, Shahram Mahbubipur, the head of the culture and guidance office in Kahnuj. Another brother who was with him was martyr Sabiri. They were ambushed in 'Ashqabad ner Jiroft and killed in the most cruel way by thugs

who did not know of God, armed thieves, and foreign mercenaries. They are now being given a general by the people of Jiroft. I express my condolences to the respected Majles and its great Speaker, the minister of culture and guidance, the parents, wives, children, brothers, and other relatives and survivors. I ask the respected intelligence and security officials to make great effort. They should show the might and power of the Islamic Republic and provide security for the deprived, poor, and martyr-rearing people of Jiroft. You must remember that the dear and brave people of Jiroft have put up with all difficulties, the high prices and other problems because of their love for God and respect for the blood of martyrs. But they will never tolerate the lack of security.

The likes of this bitter incident cannot be tolerated. How long must we witness such shameful events? Some officials keep saying there is no insecurity. Are you going to keep saying this now? I will not say anything further in order not to allow the enemies of the holy Islamic revolution to take advantage of the situation. But I ask for serious, steadfast and quick steps to be taken by the Supreme National Security Council.

The deputy from Jiroft talked about the problems faced by his constituency and said:

1. I ask the respected and popular president of the Islamic Republic to be kind and pay special attention to the town he called Iran's "little India." He praised Jiroft and said we are proud to have a city like Jiroft. The poor city of Jiroft is an important center for agriculture in the vast land of Iran, but unfortunately, it lives in unspeakable poverty. In order to get rid of this poverty in this fertile area, whose hungry people are sleeping on a treasure, the most important thing to do is to build agro-industries so that the huge mass of vegetables, citrus fruits, and other fruits can be turned into tomato puree, concentrated grapefruit juice, and other fruit juice to be exported to neighboring and European countries. There is not even a carton factory in Jiroft yet the best dates are grown in Jiroft and packed in cardboard and sold and Jiroft does not see the revenue.

It is for these reasons that Jiroft farmers face sudden drops in the prices of their goods each year and this is why their backs break under the burden of loans taken from loan sharks and middlemen. This is why they cannot afford to pay transport fees to take their goods to the market and sometimes thousands of tonnes of tomatoes stay on the ground and no one is even willing to take them for free.

2. I ask the respected minister of agriculture to take urgent action with regard to the distribution of various chemical fertilizers, since they are needed now by the farmers, because they will be no good once the season has passed. I ask that they appoint for the post of welfare officer in the region, a dedicated expert with much energy.

3. I ask the minister of roads and transportation to take urgent action in connection with the surface for the very important road at Deh-kahva in Jiroft and provide the necessary cement for the Pariz factory, which is building the road between Jiroft and Baft. That way a road whose construction was started 24 years ago can be finished soon. Along the same lines I would like to ask the respected officials at the Plan and Budget Organization and the plan and budget commission in the Majles for full cooperation when the time comes for the 1993 budget.

4. The respected people of Jiroft ask the respected minister of the interior to give a definite order to the officials of that ministry in the province and in Jiroft to resolve the legal difficulties that are passed to them in writing by their representatives, as soon as possible. If they are unable to help, they should give satisfactory answers in a good-tempered way. They should not act in a way so that God forbid the people would become disappointed with the regime and the Islamic revolution. They should respect the peoples' votes and their elected officials and they should cooperate with the deputy for that area.

5. I ask the respected minister of Construction Jihad to end factionalism in the province and to quickly choose someone to head the Construction Jihad office in Jiroft, who would be in line with the people. You should also organize a trip to the region to see the problems of the people yourself, to think of solutions.

6. I ask the respected head of the office in charge of deprived areas to make a trip to Jiroft to undertake action to resolve the poverty. I ask the minister of education to give a further 18 months to those who have spent their worthy lives educating the children of the religious people of the area, so that they can retire under the new salary scheme. That way they will be able to manage their daily expenses. I welcome the new manager of education in the province and I ask him to name deputies who are religious, dedicated, and sympathetic. I ask that he end factionalism and prove that the respected minister has done well to send him there. He should place the martyr-rearing town of Jiroft at the top of his list of priorities, which is the way it should be.

All those involved with education in Kerman Province say this is Jiroft's right, because they are well aware of the situation there. I would like to ask all those involved with civil aviation in Jiroft about the airport that they wanted to open on 9 April 1992, the day before the Majles elections. I want to ask them when the people of Jiroft will be able to fly from Jiroft to Kerman and Tehran, even twice a week?

I thank the mayor of Jiroft for his investigations into cases of theft of public funds and ask the judicial power to give back the funds that belong to the people of Jiroft so that they can be spent on welfare projects. I would like to ask the judicial authorities what has happened to the 12 Bahman [1 Feb] file. I also want to thank the district

governors of 'Ashar-abad, Rezard, and Lid for their sympathetic handling of peoples' problems.

Discussions

During yesterday's open session of the Majles there was a report from the commission on industries and mines with regard to correcting the laws and regulations of the standards and industrial organization of Iran, which had been ratified at the previous session.

With regard to Article 3 of the bill, Messrs. Amin-la, Nojaiat, and Sadr suggested that Note 1 be removed. Mr. Sadr commented on his suggestion and said: Note 1 of Article 3 contradicts the bill that set up the Ministry of Health in 1988 in the Third Majles. This is why I suggest we remove it. I suggest that the legal obligations that exist from the Third Majles in the law establishing the Ministry of Health, concerning the standards applicable to drugs and foodstuffs, remain as they are. It is not right that we pass another law for a ministry that has been set up since the victory of the revolution, whose activity has been monitored for several years, especially since some years have passed since the law was ratified.

Mr. Movahedi Savaji spoke in favor of removing the note and said: The organization of standards and industrial research should be a center to provide an opinion on all goods and produce that are made in the country. It should determine standards and supervise them. It should stop all goods that are below standard. If we are to look at this issue from that angle, every organization and ministry that is able to produce an item should control the quality of that specific item.

Private as well as public companies usually have laboratories and facilities and it is possible to leave them to set their own standards. Then what is the point of having a standards organization?

I think the issue that concerns the Ministry of Health is the matter of drugs and not foodstuffs, cosmetics, and so forth. I think if we remove this note, it would be better.

Mr. Amin-la spoke in favor of getting rid of the note and said: Just as Mr. Sadr has said, the law that established the Ministry of Health, was passed by the Third Majles at the start of its work.

Article 11 of this bill deals with the duties regarding the standards of medicines, foodstuffs, cosmetics, and cleaning materials and gives responsibility for this to the Ministry of Health. In accordance with this description of duties, it has created facilities, attracted experts, set up offices, and gained enough experience in this area. So far there have been no problems. A law not even four years old, it is not fair for the Fourth Majles to come along and tear this apart. To transfer the equipment from the Ministry of Health to another institute would cause many problems. We should make an effort to lessen the financial burden of the government and lessen expenditures in the country.

The representative of the commission in charge of industry spoke against the removal of the note and said: The Ministry of Health is responsible for producing health goods, just as the Ministry of Industries has to issue production permits and permits for the use of hygienic materials, some of which relate to matters of health.

When an item is produced by the people, does it not have its own standards? In this note we have made an exception for medicines, because doctors and other specialists have their own views and standards on drugs. The standards organization could keep in mind that each medicine has its on standard. When we buy shampoo, we do not need a prescription from the doctor. But we cannot get drugs without a prescription.

We made an exception for medication. Part 3 of Article 11 talks about "drugs, foodstuffs, and material for laboratories." What facilities does the Ministry of Health have to look at the materials that the producers hand over to it, to see whether or not they match its own particular standards? In this law, we look at the standards organization as a body that guarantees the health of society, not just a government organization. This is why the people have to buy what they need with peace of mind and is this something that is approved by the Ministry of Health. The responsibilities of the standards organization do not nullify the duties of the Ministry of Health. We only placed the part dealing with medication under the ministry's jurisdiction because of its sensitivity. You should allow foodstuffs and chemicals to have their own seal of approval so that people can buy with peace of mind. This is why the commission is against the removal of this note.

The government representative said: With regard to standards, we should have a uniform policy without exception. If nuclear power, drugs, food, health, medical equipment, and oil become exceptions, then why have the standards organization at all?

The note was read as follows: Note 1: The composition and supervision of standards over medicines are up to the Ministry of Health Education. The proposal to remove this note was put to the vote, but was rejected.

Mr. 'Abbaspur proposed the removal of Notes 2 and 3 and said: The standards organization in every country acts in support of the people with regard to all products made available by both the private and public sectors.

Note 2 specifies that "supervision of the standards governing nuclear power is up to the appropriate authority." The point is, the Atomic Energy Organization itself produces about 70 to 80 percent of the radiation. The equipment used in sterilization and radiation detection is used by this organization. This organization can therefore not supervise its own activity, and there must surely be an outside body that would support the people and work alongside the people. It would then be able to determine whether or not any of the products of the Atomic Energy Organization are substandard. In all

parts of the world, they have general supervision. If we want a strong standards organization we must not allow other organizations to take away bits of its responsibility, which would leave us with a weak and unreliable organization. Many of the experts in this field are in universities and this bill itself specifies that experts can be used in two fields of transfer and supervision. I believe that the standards organization, with the experts that it has, will be able to cope with the supervisory.

Mr. Mowahedi Sawaji spoke against the proposal and said: In terms of security matters, it would be best to have the standards organization supervise all matters. If there are no security issues to be considered, the standards organization will not cope with the load.

The standards organization, with the exception of some goods produced inside and outside that are specified in the law, supervises a percentage of various foreign imports, and they seriously advise us that they cannot cope with any more.

Therefore it is best to act just as mentioned in the note and not include the issue of nuclear power.

Mr. Rajai Khorasani commented on the matter and said: The items that are to be standardized here are exports, therefore it is absolutely necessary to have the standards organization's opinions on these items. We must allow this organization to tell us whether or not it has the capacity. We want to write a law right now, outlining the responsibilities of the standards organization. If it does not have the capability, then let us give it the capability. This capability includes a budget and facilities. If we remove this note and take active steps to strengthen the standards organization, it will be good both for the Atomic Energy Organization and the standards organization. This is why I strongly urge you to vote in favor of removing this note, in accordance with the suggestion of Dr. 'Alikhanpur.

Both the commission and the government disagreed with the commission's rejection [sentence as published]. Then the main text of Note 2 of Article 3 was read aloud as follows: "Supervision of standards in the area of nuclear energy is up to the relevant authority."

The removal of this note was put to the vote and was rejected. Messrs. Nuri, Mokhtari, Naderi, and other deputies supported the addition of a note to Clause 8 of Article 3 as follows:

"The determination and supervision of standards in the oil and related industries is up to the Ministry of Petroleum." Following comments for and against the proposal as well as suggestions from the appropriate commission, the above proposal was rejected.

Then Article 3 was read aloud and because there was no other suggestion, the main body of the bill plus an additional eight clauses and four notes were ratified as follows:

Below is a text of Article 3:

Chapter 2:

Article 3—The duties of the organization are to research, compose, and implement standards as follows:

1. To define national and official standards, as the only official body in the country permitted to carry out this task.

2. To carry out research in order to draw up standards for the minimum quality in goods produced locally, to help improve production methods and the efficiency of industry.

3. To promote national standards.

4. Supervision of the implementation of enforced standards.

5. To control the quality of export items, to prevent the exportation of goods that are not of good quality, in order to provide competition with similar foreign goods, in order to safeguard foreign markets.

6. To control the quality of imported goods in order to protect the consumer and local producers and to stop the importation of foreign goods of inferior quality.

7. To standardize measurements in the country and to calibrate measuring devices.

8. Testing and matching test samples with known standards, announcing the particulars and issuing comparisons as well as issuing the necessary permits.

Note 1—The definition and supervision of standards as they apply to medicines are up to the Ministry of Health and Health Education.

Note 2—Supervision of standards as they apply to nuclear energy is up to the relevant authority.

Note 3—Laboratories that have the necessary seal of approval from the organization may offer an opinion with regard to matching specifications of various items with national standards.

Note 4—The organizations' laboratories will be recognized as primary sources in the country in terms of defining specifics on items, comparing them with the relevant standards, and the calibration of measuring equipment. This does not apply to medicines.

Articles 4 and 5 were ratified as follows:

Article 4—The organization can act, if necessary, to determine the quality and the specifications of items produced locally, as well as imports, in terms of safety and health. It can make its results public.

Article 5—The organization can set in order to control the quality and quantity of raw materials and production, up to the stage of packaging, loading, transport, unloading, and distribution to the market. It can act in terms of competition with similar foreign companies and, with the approval of the cabinet, can create branches or representative offices outside the country. It can provide inspection services to both the public and private sectors in accordance with regulations approved by the supreme council in charge of standards.

Note—The organization is the only official body allowed to approve the credentials of foreign inspection organizations and companies.

Discussions of the rest of the bill were postponed until the next session.

The next item on the agenda was the very urgent [double urgency] plan to prevent teachers from retiring until the end of March 1994, which was signed by more than 60 of the respected deputies. Mr. Nowbakht was one of the people who had signed the plan. He said: We have been informed that thousands of teachers who have toiled for the children of this land for more than 30 years, are asking us to prevent them from retiring. These dear ones lost their jobs as of 23 September. This action has meant that the education department is deprived of the presence of these experienced people. There will also be quite a difference to the amount of pay that the dear people get. In accordance with Article 84 of the Constitution, we, the deputies of the people, are responsible for these teachers.

Mr. Nasiri spoke in opposition and said: The question is the urgency of the plan, not the plan itself. The plan should in fact be discussed. But as for the urgency, first of all, these people are not being sacked, they are retiring, which is quite normal for civil servants. I disagree with the urgency of the plan, because retirement has its own regulations.

Mr. Akrami issued a Constitutional warning and said: This plan brings a financial burden and cannot be discussed. In the budget bill we have defined the education budget and this is not one of the items in that budget.

Then Mr. Mokhtari also spoke in favor, after which the very urgency of the plan was put to the vote and was approved. Also at yesterday's session, it was announced that a plan to correct Note 2 of Article 110 of the law governing the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been received.

18 Oct

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[Unattributed report on 18 Oct open session of the Majles]

[Text] Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session yesterday. Deputies from Bam, Ardebil and Parsian, Ardebil, Kuhdasht, and Gorgan gave speeches, then the Majles went into session. Below is a text of the Majles proceedings.

Majid Dabestani, Deputy From Bam: Everyone in the Country Must Produce More Than They Consume

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's session of the Majles was Mr. Majid Dabestani, the people's deputy from Bam. In a speech he condemned the killing of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and added: We have behind us 14 years of resistance and heroic sacrifice. We rely on trust and independence and with a backpack full of experience, we go forth to build the country. The government continues to follow its goals of economic independence and construction and coordinates its work with the first Five-Year Plan for economic and social progress.

He said: This is a very sensitive place in our country's history and the task that we have ahead of us needs nonstop work and effort. Everyone in the country must think and prepare themselves. They must all be mobilized for reconstruction in the country. They must all play their part in production and make an effort to produce more than they consume. Helping to achieve the government's goals and economic policies is our duty.

He said: We must build the country and keep its independence ourselves, so that we can introduce our revolution to the rest of the world as a successful model. He added: Just as the departed Imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—once said, the only thing we have to think about is how to strengthen the pillars of the pure Islam of the Prophet. If Iran is not based on true independence, we have achieved nothing.

He said: The country's future depends on our effort and unity. Wherever there is a problem and a need for revolutionary forces, they will accept the responsibility with all their hearts. We must create fundamental, basic industries. Keeping in mind that we have a lot of resources and abilities in this area, at this sensitive time, when we enjoy political stability, we must use this opportunity to unify the country. We must adopt a policy that would go along with the tendency among our people toward achieving justice. We must think of ways to stop mass poverty from breaking the economy, before we provide creature comforts for the people.

The speaker added: We must accept the fact there is a strong need to seek justice among our people, which is something that has been abused a great deal by the counterrevolution and foreign provocation. By exaggerating the issues and spreading rumors, they turn people into negative elements, instead of encouraging them to build. If we do nothing to prevent the spreading of rumors and lies, we will cause as much damage as we would if we were to prevent the truth from becoming known. What is obvious is that this will not be possible by passing a few laws or by giving advice. We need intelligent laws and behavior based on social and religious understanding. It would be best to have both for spiritual understanding in this society, which is necessary in order to predict society's reactions in the face of ups and downs and problems throughout history. These could be issues concerning war, economic shortcomings,

or else confronting a nation with cultural issues, fashions of the day, and imported ideology. Because the world's propaganda network is so huge, a society cannot be immune from it completely.

The speaker continued: In an age when a cultural onslaught against an Islamic nation has reached its peak, at this time it is of utmost importance to restore the spirits and morality of the future generations. This is because the propaganda is aimed at young people in Islamic Iran. We must pay attention to the fact that there are at present more than 17 million young people living in this country. The motive force in our society is made up of these same people. We must recognize their problems, their needs and issues. We must find the proper language to communicate with them. After the organization of the Five-Year Plan and in line with it, the government of the Islamic Republic has focused its attention on three main points. These include reconstruction and correction of fundamental aspects of growth where it has had considerable and important success. Correcting the foundations of the economy includes economic improvements and basic investment. It must also be pointed out that the basis of growth includes providing all the resources for fundamental economic, social, and cultural work. Predictable future needs in these sectors have to be accounted for. Future needs will also have to meet the demands of a growing population, which means that they have to create jobs and help the general trend toward production. They have to increase the growth rate. Because oil revenue is so important in the government's budget, we must pay attention to the fact that the lower value of money will add considerably to the political pressure on the government and will increase its expenditures, by about the same amount as the increase in revenue as a result of oil sales. Therefore, in order to be successful, there must be greater control over government spending. This issue has to be considered as part of the coordinated and large-scale economic and trade policies.

The deputy from Bam explained: The goal of Iran's foreign trade is to replace oil with other exports and services in the long term. Looking at and reviewing Iran's cities, we see that the land on which Bam is build, with all its places to see and other qualities, has its own special place. The city has a very sensitive position. Today it keeps its cultural, historic, social, and economic identity and continues life in a position of strength.

He added: Bam has always had a special place in the rich history of Iran and has many stories to its credit. Every inch of this land is full of secrets, which today's sophisticated world has so far been unable to discover. The historic fort of Arg in Bam is the biggest Islamic monument in Iran and is the biggest mud structure in the world, which is attractive in its own special way. It is built over an area of 60,000 square meters on top of a mountain of rock.

He added: One of the features of the area, which can provide an answer to many of the country's current and future needs, is its close proximity to the ports at Chah Bahar and Bandar 'Abbas, if there are plans to establish export-oriented industries. The area is also close to the southwestern frontiers with Pakistan. Fortunately the plan to establish a rail link between Kerman and Zahedan and Kerman and Chah Bahar could be a turning point in improving the economy of the southwest. At present we see that the Narmashir area of Bam has taken over the role of Zahedan and has become the scrap metal center for Iran. Loading and unloading takes place in this area. Therefore it is recommended that industries that will bring in hard currency be established including petrochemicals, steel, paper, cement, medicines, packaging, food industries, and dairy products. There should be a huge dairy plant because at present more than 200 tonnes of milk are produced in the traditional manner in the region, some 40 tonnes of which are then collected and sent to Kerman.

The speaker concluded: What we would like to ask the Ministry of the Interior is to turn the governorate of Bam into a special governorate, if the experts agree, since its position is very sensitive and since it has all the potential for growth.

He said: Following our previous requests from the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, we would still like to see colleges of agriculture and veterinary medicine in the area. Bam has 12,000 hectares of date palm groves and 8,000 hectares of citrus orchards. There is a plan and studies to restore the desert. I would like to ask the Ministry of Agriculture to form the regional welfare office. At present the economy of Bam focuses on agriculture, but unfortunately this year because of the cold weather during pollination the date harvest has been reduced by 30,000 tonnes, which means that the farmers have suffered losses.

'Ali Yusuf-pur, Deputy From Ardal and Farsan: The People of Bakhtiyari and Chahar Mahal Have Given Good Service to the Shi'ites Through the Years

Mr. Yusuf-pur from the constituency of Ardal, the second pre-agenda speaker, expressed his gratitude for the trip made to the deprived province of Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiyari by the great leader. The province of Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiyari and its poor people are suffering from a poverty that has lasted for several thousand years. During the whole time that there has been a government in Iran, no government has had welfare or culture activity in the province. With the success of the Islamic Revolution, just as the people of Iran were liberated from the hands of the pagans and their foreign manners, our province was also freed from the hands of the feudal lords.

He said: Our province has very rich natural resources and its people have been clever and brave throughout the ages. Unfortunately, for some reason or another, these resources have not been utilized through the years. At the same time the people of this province have given

good service throughout the years to the Islamic homeland and to the Shi'ite clergy. They have never left the clerics of Islam alone. With the success of the Islamic revolution, the light of the jurisconsult's rule began to shine in our province and now our poverty, which has lasted for several thousand years, is beginning to disappear.

He then talked about the special attention that the Imam paid to poor areas and said: This has caused our people to work very hard safeguarding the revolution. They showed this courage and effort when our young people participated in the Qamar-e Bani Hashem Brigade. The great leader showed special kindness to the deprived province of Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiyari, during the period of his presidency. In return our Shi'ite religious people showed a welcome toward him even in snow and very cold weather, which caused amazement and was written in the gold pages of the province's history. Last year when the respected president visited our province, this strong arm of the leader received a welcome that was unprecedented.

He added: When the people found out that the leader was going to visit the province, they poured into the center of the province and gave a rare and historic welcome to the leader. The great leader of the revolution was like a magnet. He drew in the local people with such force that one could call it divine magnetism and a work of God. The welcome in the center of the province was so intense that some people did not get to see the great leader and only half the people managed to hear him in the stadium.

In the tribal areas the welcome for the leader was so intense that anyone would have thought it was actually the leader himself making an appearance, whereas it was announced beforehand that it would only be his representatives.

The speaker added: although the tradition of the leader traveling to deprived areas causes difficulties and problems for him, the action itself means a lot to those who have been lost in history, who have remained poor through the years. It breaks the boundaries of administrative and bureaucratic red tape, which unfortunately affects many of our offices. This tradition of the leader guides officials and Majles deputies to pay more attention to poor areas.

He said the creation of a determined spirit, the strengthening of religious beliefs, the resolution of the province's many problems, the strengthening of the Hezbollah, the disabled, and the families of the martyrs, and the struggle against poverty were among the results gained from the leader's trip to the province.

He thanked those who accompanied the leader on this trip.

Mir Naqi Qazi-pur, Deputy From Ardebil

Mir Naqi Qazi-pur, deputy from the constituency of Ardebil, was another of the pro-agenda speakers who said: In the past week the Hezbollah ummah of Ardebil and nearby cities received a huge blessing from God, thanks to the holy Islamic regime.

The fact that Ardebil has a province of its own now is something that has been a dream of the local people, dating back to the previous regime. It has now become reality, thanks to the efforts of the officials in the Islamic regime, and has made the local people very happy. The scenes of the people's joy were reminiscent of the liberation of Khorramshahr. I think with all my heart the cabinet of the holy Islamic regime, especially the attention and kindness shown by the respected and popular president of the Islamic Republic, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. It is my duty, in this holy place, to bring you greetings and grateful thanks from the 2 million inhabitants of the region. I bring greetings for the popular president and the respected government, because this revolutionary act proves the special care and attention that the regime's officials show to deprived areas and the poor ummah. It is aimed at bringing prosperity to Azarbaijan. I thank the respected minister of the interior and the experts and deputies at the Ministry of the Interior, especially the head of the boundaries office and his colleagues. I thank all the Majles deputies who are representing the area, the respected Friday imams of Ardebil, other clerics, religious and secular persons in the area, Friday imams, the people of the province, all those who are trusted by the people, and anyone else who made an effort in this regard. If God is willing, with special attention and kindness from the respected Majles Deputies, especially the respected Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr. Nateq Nuri, it will receive final approval soon.

'Ali Emami Rad, Deputy From Kuhdasht and Chegini: The Fourth Majles Is Immune From Deviant Thoughts and Obeys the Departed Imam and the Great Leader

'Ali Emami Rad, deputy from Kuhdasht, was another pro-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles. In a speech, he expressed gratitude for the glorious participation of the aware people of Kuhdasht and Chegini in the elections for the fourth Majles. He said: I thank the great God who was kind in his wisdom. With sure-foot and clear guidance from the great leader, at this sensitive time in our country's history, a Majles has been provided that is free from deviant lines of thought. It has within it the most dedicated group of people, who believe most strongly in the ideals of the departed Imam and will obey the leader's orders and wishes without question. They support the wise government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which is eager to serve the people.

He added: I congratulate the Militant Clergy (Rowhaniyat) on their victory in the elections for the Fourth Majles. I believe that in order to be able to continue this trend and to enjoy the people's trust, we must correct the

management in the country. We must look into the issues and provide practical support for the poor, the oppressed, and the vulnerable classes in society and launch a serious fight against inflation and high prices.

Thank God each day that passes, with the wise leadership of the leader of the revolution, despite all the problems and obstacles that exist, we can be proud and powerful. We can go forth to conquer even the last strongholds of the wicked and the cruel, all for Islam's greater glory throughout the world. It is enough that the world aggression headed by the criminal United States is now afraid of the creation of Islamic regimes in various places throughout the world. It sees their creation as an obstacle in its path for implementing its cruel and inhuman programs. It seems the only solution they can think of is to slaughter Muslims and undertake genocide so that perhaps they can prevent the establishment of Islamic regimes and prevent the further spreading of Islam's influence. Examples of this method can be seen today in Palestine, Lebanon, Georgia, Kashmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other parts of the world with Muslim populations. It is a matter of regret that international organizations who claim to support human rights and those organizations that claim to want democracy, in this so-called civilized world, continue these painful and tragic events as if they are deaf and blind. They should know that these types of cruel and hurried reactions will only prove the fine saying of our dear Imam who once said that Islam will drag the superpowers down into the dirt.

He added: I warn the brovaless and powerless leaders of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and the reactionary leaders of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council to learn a lesson from Saddam. They should not throw themselves into a well, depending only on the security of a threadbare rope thrown to them by the United States and its allies. They should not let themselves be the plaything of the colonialists any longer. The brave men and the lion-like women and Jihad volunteers of this land will sacrifice their lives and their property to safeguard their territory and their position in the world.

I also warn imperialism and international Zionism to learn a lesson from their past. They should know that they are confronting a people who have had eight brave years of holy defense in the face of the world of heresy led by the United States and who have taught the Muslims and oppressed peoples the secrets of resistance.

The deputy from Kuhdasht then gave some details on the problems faced by this constituency to the relevant authorities, as follows:

1. To the president and Mr. Beshawri, to look into the issues of the poor area of Kuhdasht and Chegini.

2. To the minister of culture and higher education with regard to the establishment of a university in the region.

3. To the minister of the interior regarding the inclusion of several villages and settlements in the region.

4. To the minister of mines and metals to prevent a mass invasion of the stone quarries in the area.

5. To the minister of health and health education to look into the area's health problems.

6. To the minister of roads and transport regarding quick action to build the underlay and pave the road between Kuhdasht and Khaj-emahad and to allocate a sum of 2 billion rials for the said road.

Mohammad Hasan 'Alavi, Deputy From Gorgan

Mohammad Hasan 'Alavi, the deputy from Gorgan, was the last speaker who used two minutes left over from the time allocated to the deputy from Kuhdasht. In a short speech he said: According to the news reports received, the respected cabinet has finally put on its agenda, the issue of new provinces. It is with great regret that we see it has only approved one new province and has rejected the other two.

This piece of news has upset and worried the dignified people of Gorgan and Gonbad, who have always been present on the scene of the revolution. They have repeatedly asked the reason for the rejection. The area of Gonbad and Gorgan has given valuable help and sacrifice throughout the Islamic revolution and the imposed war, its people giving their lives as well as financial help. On the other hand, the Gorgan region has been identified as a center of agriculture and is top in the north for cotton, wheat, soybeans, and barley. This is a fact that is accepted by the respected president and the respected cabinet. Now there is the question of this rejection. The proposal has, in truth, been a wish of the local martyr-rearing people, who are always on the scene, for many years. Is this in fact not ignoring the effort made by the dear and hardworking brothers at the respected Ministry of the Interior, especially the experts who work in the boundaries' section, as well as those in Mazandaran Province and in the Gorgan region? Is it not the case that rejecting this proposal is in fact a rejection of the pure and innocent feelings and emotions of the people in the region, who have always considered themselves to be the true followers of the Imam's line and the leadership of the great leader of the revolution, who have also announced their support for the hardworking government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani? Therefore we request reconsideration and finally we ask that the bill suggested by the respected minister of the interior be sent to the Majlis.

The deputy from Gorgan concluded: It is necessary at this time to announce my support for the God-pleasing and lawful action of the respected education manager in Mazandaran Province. I thank our brother Mr. Adiyan, the Gorgan head of education, who previously held that post and wish him all success in his next position.

Majlis Ratification

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open session of the Majlis was a very urgent bill (double urgency) to

provide extra funds to meet the deficits of hospitals, the health program for government employees, and the plan to expand health care throughout the country. Following discussions, the single item on the bill and its footnotes were ratified by the Majles.

Item: The government is allowed to obtain 50 million rials from the welfare organization. Within the framework of existing laws and regulations, it is allowed to spend this in the following areas after gaining an agreement from the Plan and Budget Organization.

1. A minimum of 30 billion rials to make up for the deficit needed to complete projects involving the completion of hospital buildings and providing equipment.

2. A minimum of 3 billion rials to complete and equip 100 emergency centers as mentioned in an amendment to the budget for 1992.

3. A minimum of 8 billion rials to make up the deficit in the funds needed to equip health centers and to expand the health centers and to expand the health network throughout the country, as written in the 1992 budget.

4. A minimum of 10 billion rials to make up for the deficit of the funds needed for the plans to provide health insurance for government civil servants as written in the 1992 budget.

Footnote 1—The government has a duty to pay back the funds needed for the above item, borrowed from the welfare organization, and also pay back a portion of other sums that it has borrowed from the welfare organization. It must do this by handing over to the welfare organizations the Darupakhs pharmaceutical company and all its subsidiaries, with all its shares, equipment, property, funds, employees, and commitments.

Footnote 2—The executive bodies that use the funds mentioned in the above item, have a duty to exchange relevant agreements with the Plan and Budget Organization, within one month of the ratification of this bill.

Footnote 3—In addition to the Plan and Budget Organization, there will be a committee to include representatives from the health, urban development and housing, and accountancy commissions of the Majles. This committee will supervise the distribution and utilization of the funds to each of the designated plans mentioned in the above item.

Footnote 4—This law must be implemented from the date of its ratification.

Also at yesterday's open session a group of deputies asked that the agenda be changed and asked that the resignation of Mr. Sobhan-Allahi, deputy from Tabriz, be placed on the next agenda. This was put to the vote in accordance with Article 70 of the regulations and ratified.

The next item on the agenda was looking into the bill outlining the regulations governing the standards and industrial research organization of Iran. Previously, five articles of this bill were ratified. Article 6 onwards of the bill were then discussed.

In accordance with Article 6 of this bill the standards organization can, with the approval of the supreme council in charge of standards, make compulsory the standardization of goods or parts of certain standards or work specifications that deal with security, safeguarding public health, securing the quality of various goods, providing support for the consumer, or other actions that are necessary for economic reasons or for the sake of convenience. Deadlines for these actions must be not less than three months.

Each time there is an announcement regarding the imposition of a standard on a particular item and once the specified deadline has run out, the production, distribution, and sale of that item will not be allowed without the seal of approval of the standards organization or if the quality of the item drops below the set standard. Those who violate this regulation will be sentenced to between three months and two years imprisonment and will face cash fines ranging from 1 million rials to 50 million rials, based on the verdict of an authorized court.

This law also specifies that anyone who in their line of work, production, trade, services, or general buying and selling uses scales, weights, or other instruments of measurement, such as equipment measuring heartbeats, will be punishable by law if they alter the set standards of their equipment. The same applies to those who buy and sell faulty or fake measuring instruments or those who alter the set standards on such equipment after manufacture.

Whenever one of the said violations causes a person to become ill or if it causes damage, those responsible will receive appropriate punishment. The person convicted will also have to pay for all medical charges incurred as a result of the damage. And he will also have to pay for any possible damage caused and blood money. If the case is strong enough, responsibility will be transferred from the overseer to the offender.

The next item on the agenda was the plan to amend Article 1 of the bill dealing with corrective measures for the association of the judiciary's lawyers, ratified on 8 October 1991, which was discussed as a very urgent item (double urgency).

Mr. 'Alavi gave some details regarding this plan and said: In the law ratified in October 1991, we gave the judicial power one year to look into the files and backgrounds of all their lawyers. The reason why we have given it double urgency is because some time has elapsed and the deadline has passed. This is why in this plan we are giving the judicial power another year to be able to have a better look at the files.

Mr. Movahedi-Savoji spoke against the urgency of the plan and said: They should have given the bill to the

Majles before the deadline ran out. It should not be handed in in this manner, after the deadline has already passed, as a matter of double urgency. These issues should be sorted out in the commissions. I ask everyone not to vote for all these urgencies.

Mr. Mansur Soleymani spoke in favor and said: The situation of the lawyers, who have an important duty, has to be clarified. Until such time as the background files of these laywers are investigated in judicial courts, they will not be able to uphold justice.

Then the double urgency of the bill was put to the vote, but did not receive enough votes and was rejected.

20 Oct

PM1711163092 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Oct 92 pp 5, 12

[Unattributed report on the 20 Oct 92 open session of the Majles]

[Text] Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles had an open session yesterday. At this session, deputies from Kordkuy and Bandar Torkaman, Nur, Ardebil, and Khalkhal gave speeches. Also at yesterday's session, parts of the bill to correct the laws and regulations governing the standards and industrial research organization were ratified. Also, the resignation request received from Mr. Sobhan-allahi, deputy from Tabriz was rejected by the deputies. Below is a text of the session as well as the speeches.

Mohammad Qasem Kiya, Deputy From Kordkuy and Bandar Torkaman: The Government Must Stop Unimportant Foreign Trips, Useless Gift Giving, and Pointless Changes and Window Dressing

Mr. Kiya from the constituency of Kordkuy and Bandar Torkaman spoke as the first pre-agenda speaker. He said: The all-out plots hatched by the world aggression, which are mostly aimed at the Islamic Republic, indicate the strategic role played by Islamic Iran, not only in the region, but in the entire world. The restoration of Islamic values in most parts of the world is a true danger for the existence of the aggressors and the capitalist philosophy that dominates their regimes. This is where certain events become clear, such as the reason behind the sudden abandonment of the Algerian elections, the confiscation in Turkey of the ship carrying goods for the Islamic Republic, efforts to stop the election in Lebanon, and the fuss about the islands in the Persian Gulf. There are the issues dealing with the new republics in the former USSR, the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran for peaceful means, which has been prevented, and the banning of the sale of some defensive items to Iran, while at the same time there all kinds of military, economic, and intelligence help is provided for the regime occupying Jerusalem. It then becomes clear that support for the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has to come from the Islamic world and the Islamic Republic, which is trying to build a nation that will be a role model for other Muslim countries in the world. This of course is a difficult task.

He added: To defend the government's plans and programs does not contradict advice to be frugal where necessary and to prevent unnecessary spending and useless expenditure in government offices and revolutionary organizations.

The government must stop unimportant foreign trips, the use of government facilities that exists now in executive offices, revolutionary organizations, and companies that are linked to the government. Useless gift giving and pointless window dressing should be prevented. We are all aware of the importance of a serious fight against high prices, bribery, and embezzlement.

He said the Fourth Majles intended to use the commission in charge of Article 90 of the Constitution to pay as much attention to its supervisory role over various organs, as it does to its role as lawmaker. It intends to carry out its mission in this regard. He added: Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, you have always stressed the need for close cooperation between the government and the Majles. It seems it is necessary to remind some of the brother ministers that the deputies in the Majles recognize the honesty in the willingness to cooperate and coordinate in each of the brothers.

The deputy for the people of Kordkuy said resolving the problem of education in the country needs a huge effort, both from the government and the public and added: Figures indicate a growing population and an increase in the numbers of students, to such a degree that all-out effort is needed to save and help education. This is the most basic axis for growth in society and if nothing is done to help it, it will be in serious danger.

The power of the Islamic Republic depends on the credibility of its government. Those in charge of various offices can do most damage to the government by their mistakes. One of these mistakes is a sudden and untested increase in government services.

Kiya continued with remarks about credits from the World Bank saying: Using credits from the World Bank without being affected by the economic policies that govern that bank, is a right that we should take advantage of for the sake of the Islamic Republic. In our policy of trying to achieve economic balance, we must think of the classes with lower incomes. There must be an effort to coordinate this activity with a plan to provide social security and support for poor families, which is a subject that is on the government's agenda. This effort must be expanded. In order to implement all plans and to gain results, in education, economics, in society, or in the world of culture, we must promote the spirit of work. The government can use the mass media, especially the vision of the Islamic Republic to compare the level of work in successful and developed nations with that in our own country.

He added: Without work with a special purpose, we will most certainly never achieve complete success in our programs. All depends on when the people are ready to work, in a serious, sympathetic way.

Kiya said that in the second Five-Year Plan the issue of agriculture has been given prominence. He added: Investment in agriculture in order to become self-sufficient and not having to rely on food imports, will guarantee and safeguard the country. Support for the farmer must continue until the last stage when their produce is being sold. The sad story of worrying about the high price of the produce after it has left the farmers' hands should not be repeated.

He thanked the president for his directive and his continued attention toward finding an appropriate price for cotton and reminded the head of the Plan and Budget Organization and the minister of agriculture in the Supreme Economic Council saying: I hope that the agriculture minister's promise with regard to issuing a permit for cotton exports, which will no doubt increase its price, is realized as soon as possible, before the produce leaves the farmers' hands. That way the innocent hearts of this hard-working class in society will be happy and they will continue to pray for the well-being of the officials.

He said that the people in the eastern sector of Mazandaran provinces, in the towns of Kordkuy and Bandar Torkaman, have not benefited from investments. He added: Give some help to the region's farmers when it comes to providing agricultural water and improved seeds. Agro-industries must be built there or transferred there from other parts. Agricultural tools must be placed at their disposal at a reasonable price so that we can eventually see an increase in production. Provide water for the vast field at Gomishan, which is used as a pasture, and you will see more cattle. The fisheries in area four, which provide for nearly half of the country's caviar output, should be given some attention. In building ports in the region, economic attention is not enough. Alongside economic attention, there must be attention toward the social aspects and poverty.

He added: The plan for Radakan dam must be revitalized so that its waters can be used for all agriculture in Kordkuy, Bandar-e Gez, Bandar Torkaman, and Gomishan.

He continued: The fact that the cabinet did not turn Gorgan into a province has ruined the hope that the region's people have held for many years. It seems the respected cabinet ministers only paid attention to those points that were uncertain and vague and made an effort to resolve and correct the various issues.

Mr. Kiya concluded: I once again draw the officials' attention to the shortages that exist in education, health, sports facilities, creation of units for higher education, issues dealing with young people and unemployment, and helping carpet weavers, fishermen, and cattle ranchers.

Ahmad Nateq Nuri, Deputy From Nur Benefit Municipalities Have Put Pressure on Small Businesses To Renew Their Building Permits

The second speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Ahmad Nateq Nuri from the Constituency of Nur who commented on the savage killing of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said: Unfortunately the international organizations are indifferent toward this issue. The Islamic nations should show sensitivity toward the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, but they too are quiet. At this time I ask the Foreign Ministry as well as the Majles commission in charge of foreign affairs to look into the oppressed people in Bosnia-Hercegovina and at least ask the ambassadors of Islamic countries or their heads of state to look into the issue of these poor people.

He said: If it is our duty to look after innocent people, then here we have a double duty because the heroic people of Bosnia-Hercegovina are also Muslims. Unfortunately the United Nations and its chief do not show the slightest sensitivity toward these savage killings, which are committed by the Serbs. On the contrary, the world aggressors are putting even more pressure on these poor people. It is our duty to hear their cries.

He stressed: The heroic people and the brave Jihad volunteers of the martyr-rearing province of Mazandaran have sent this message, that whenever the government of the Islamic Republic sees fit, our Jihad volunteers are ready to defend the rights of the Bosnians.

In another section of his speech Mr. Ahmad Nateq Nuri talked about the country's internal situation, especially the economic situation, and said: At present there are whispers about a single rate for hard currency exchange. This has raised questions in the people's minds and has caused production and economic sectors to cease activity. At present investment in deprived sectors and in those sectors where there should be plenty of activity has stopped, because the investors do not show much enthusiasm for investing.

The deputy for the people of Nur continued his speech, saying the whispers about a single rate for hard currency have upset the economic balance in the country. He said: Recently some ministers gave an interview and announced that with immediate effect there will be only one exchange rate in the currency market, and this has had damaging results in society and has caused much tension.

I ask the hard-working government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani if they thought about these issues before they brought about a single exchange rate? What will be the effect of this decision on the lives of the people? What will be the effects of a single exchange rate on industrial exports, agriculture, and the service sector? What sort of effect will it have on employment? What will be the effect of a single exchange rate on production units which have just become active, in a country where we all believe there to be economic ills, where we still pay

subsidies? In order to prevent further inflation, we must invest more in the production area. What will be the effect of a single exchange rate on the production sector?

What will be the effect on the gross national product? How will it affect the migration of villagers into the cities? The issue of bank interest rates has become a problem for our society. In areas where we have to attract money into production, we see that the banks compete with one another in their interest rates. They even invite people to invest with them using television networks.

The banks give lavish prizes to people in order to attract them to invest their money in those particular banks. This is like a pest for our production. In village welfare works and in other deprived parts, if you come and impose a single exchange rate, what will you do with poor areas?

In the current budget and in the welfare budget, this will have an adverse effect, which we must start planning for now. A single exchange rate will adversely affect government companies, foundations, and those organizations which now do industrial and economic work. It will affect the printing of money, salaries and so forth. Has anyone thought of solutions for these things?

I clearly suggest that before the government makes a decision in this regard, it should coordinate its moves with the Majles and look into all aspects of the issue.

He added: The gentlemen ministers should be warned not to give interviews on an issue where nothing has been done yet, to avoid tension in society.

The speaker concluded by addressing the municipality: Recently the municipalities have put pressure on small businesses, saying their building permits are not issued for business premises, that they should obtain new permits. They must not put this sort of pressure on the weak classes and those in society with low incomes, because this is dangerous.

He then addressed the Ministry of Roads and Transport with regard to the roads in Mazandaran Province, especially the Nur to Chamestan and Amol road, which is one of the most dangerous. He addressed the Ministry of the Interior concerning independence for Mahmud-abad [as published.]

Nur-oddin No'i Eqdam, Deputy From Ardebil: Cabinet Approval for Turning Ardebil Into a Province Has Long Been a Wish of the Local People

No'i Eqdam, another pre-agenda speaker, said: 15 October 1992 was the day of the Cabinet's ratification of a bill designating Ardebil as a province. It was a day of celebration for those living in cities in the eastern party of Azarbaijan. The dream became reality because of the kindness of the holy Islamic Republic regime. This glorious day matched the day of Khorramshahr's liberation and the day of the revolution, 11 February 1978 and brought those memories back for the people. It has long been a wish of the local people, and according to existing documents, it was pursued even in the days of the former regime.

On the day the martyr-rearing people of the area heard the news and went on their rooftops to shout "God is great!" They broadcast revolutionary songs from the speakers of mosques. They held marches and decorated the streets. They shouted slogans in the streets saying "Hashemi-Rafsanjani, thank you, thank you," and "Khamene'i, may you live long," and "Hashemi-Rafsanjani, may you live long." They gave out sweets in the streets and sounded their horns. They thanked the respected officials and the hard-working government from the bottom of their hearts and congratulated one another on this victory.

He said: The continued requests of the region's people during the former regime were always denied. With the success of the Islamic revolution in Iran, a wave of hope sprang forth in the hearts of the people. Several years later, this hope was transmitted by the region's officials and the representatives of the people to the government of the Islamic Republic. But the realization of this request was not possible during the imposed war since the government could not waste time thinking of anything other than how to repel the aggressor and defend the values of the holy Islamic regime. After the end of the imposed war and in the process of the five-year plan, the popular president, who was visiting various provinces, visited the cities of Azarbayjan in September 1991. There, he saw at first hand the potential that existed in the region in all fields. He heard the cries of hundreds of thousands of people who had gathered from all cities in the eastern sector of Azarbaijan, in the Takhti Stadium and nearby streets, asking for a new province in the east of Azarbaijan, with its center at Ardebil. In exactly one year since the presidential visit, the wish of the 1.5 million people of the area became a reality with the will of great God, in the day of the rule of the jurisconsult who is responsible for the affairs of Muslims, in the time of the gracious government of the Islamic Republic.

No'i Eqdam added: It is my duty to bring the greetings of each person in the region, especially the great families of the martyrs, the disabled, the POWs, fighters, the respected clergy, the Friday imams, the ulema, and the religious people who are serving in the other parts of the country. I bring you thanks from the heart, from the innocent feelings of each and every person in the cities of Fars-abad, Sheb-savar, Meshkin Shahr, Sarab, Khalkhal, and Ardebil and I send these thanks to the great leader of the Islamic revolution, the popular president, and the respected members of the government.

The deputy from Ardebil then said: Dear brothers and sisters who serve in the Fourth Majles, the various sectors of society in the region, especially the fathers and mothers of the martyrs, had tears of joy in their eyes. Their smiles spoke of what was in their hearts. They saw this victory as the wish of their martyred children. In a huge gathering that they had arranged, they said prayers

for the great leader, the president, and officials of the Islamic Republic. They asked me to bring their honest greetings to the respected Majles Speaker and other deputies. They asked that you give final approval to this bill before the budget for 1993 is planned. That way we will see the establishment of the governor general's office and main offices before the start of the 10 Days of Dawn celebrations [1st of February 1993].

Seyyed Mottahar Kazemi, Deputy From Khalkhal

Mr. Seyyed Mottahar Kazemi, the last pre-agenda speaker, said in a speech: Today God has given us a huge gift and enormous assets like the rule of the jurisconsult, the leader of the Islamic revolution, the regime of the Islamic Republic, and our people who are always present on the scenes. With all this glory and greatness, world aggression is still trying to weaken these powers in any way it can. If we do not pay attention to the basic forces in the country, if we only keep in mind the Islamic and revolutionary aspects and forget other aspects, then this, too, is an internal blow.

He stressed: Our role model is Imam 'Ali and even though the likes of Khaled Bin Walid worked very hard for Islam, they are our role models. Today our role model must be emulated by the country's managers. I would like to thank the respected president and the respected government for giving a positive response to the wishes of the people in the Ardebil region including the nearby cities of Khalkhal and Bileh Savar, by ratifying the formation of a new province with Ardebil as its center. This was one of the most interesting and useful decisions, and will in the future give clear and good results. These results will include the strong presence of the government, fighting poverty, and providing spiritual food for Muslims for which we shall all wait.

He added: We expect the respected Speaker of the Majles as well as the Majles leadership and the deputies to pay special attention to the ratification of this bill for the province.

He thanked the cabinet and the president for their approval of a plan to restore the areas around the Qazal River.

In conclusion the deputy from Khalkhal addressed the country's executive officials and asked them to look into the people's problems.

Majles Discussions

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was a discussion on the resignation of Mr. Sobhan-allahi, the Tabriz deputy.

Mohammad 'Ali Sobhan-Allahi started with a speech, saying: In this holy place, it is a great event to be able to serve each and every dedicated Muslim. I have been allowed to come here four times with the votes of the dedicated and aware people of Tabriz. I now feel that it is my duty to use my experience, education, and expertise in an executive position. I believe that from that position I will be better able to serve the regime of the Islamic Republic. I thank the good people of Tabriz who have voted for me four times, especially the last time when I did no political campaigning at all. I hope they will forgive me and I hope that they will be on the scene to strengthen the holy regime of the Islamic Republic like before. They should rest assured that wherever I am, I will always feel the kindness of the regime and my friends and I will be proud to serve. I would like to thank my Majles colleagues, both in previous times and also the respected deputies of the fourth term. I thank the employees who during this period have always cooperated with me. If my colleagues will permit me, I would like to leave with wonderful and unforgettable memories. I beg God to give them the chance and opportunity to serve the Islamic Republic. I thank the respected President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the faithful, worthy, tireless friend of the Imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—as well as the great leader of the revolution. I thank the respected cabinet who have always helped me in my work. I hope that they will be successful in their important and vital task. I would like to thank the respected Majles speaker and the dear deputies. I ask that you accept my resignation and hope that your prayers will be with me, to help me serve the holy Islamic regime in my next post.

After the short speech by Mr. Sobhan-allahi, 'Abbas 'Ali 'Amid Zanjani, deputy from Tehran, spoke in favor of the resignation. He said: His knowledge, experience, honesty, and his active revolutionary spirit are known to all the dear people. The Fourth Majles has been formed on the basis of close cooperation with the government.

The meaning of Majles support for the government is that the Majles should supervise and look deeply into the actions of the government and give positive supervision. This means that wherever the government needs help, the Majles should try to resolve the government's needs. Now one of the famous faces in the Majles is given to the government so that the government can solve its problems. What is important is to resolve the problems of a large and fertile province as well as those of the government. In the shadow of all this also lies Mr. Sobhan-allahi's personal problems.

The Majles once again proves that it will support the government and not deny it anything.

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht was one of the deputies opposed to the resignation, who said: If the Majles votes in favor of Mr. Sobhan-allahi's resignation, we will lose out. He is one of 12 deputies who has the experience of all four rounds. What substitute can there be for experience in law making? If you introduce anyone else in his place, they will not be in the same league. This verbal agreement in the Majles does not mean we are strengthening the government, because strengthening the government does not follow the weakening of the Majles.

Mr. Sobhan-allahi is an effective person who can give a view in the commission for planning and budget.

Engineer Morteza Nabavi was against the resignation of the Tabriz deputy. He said: My opposition to this move is to safeguard the traditions of the Majles. If Mr. Sobhan-allahi, the valued deputy for Tabriz, goes, it will most definitely be a blow to the dignity of the Majles. It is only a few months since the start of the fourth term. How can we make an excuse to the people of Tabriz who are losing their elected deputy after only a few months? Then there has to be more work to elect another deputy. Mr. 'Amid Zanjani spoke of the slogan for the Fourth Majles, which is to support the government. We must really support the government by opposing this resignation. How can the Majles support the government? By passing good laws, by exact analysis of government proposals, and by passing good laws for the moment.

He added: The Fourth Majles is now faced with the second Five-Year Plan. It must evaluate the first plan well to work out the strong and weak points of the plan so that they be compensated for in the second plan. Who do we have better for this job than Mr. Sobhan-allahi, who has experience of three previous rounds in the Majles as well as membership of the plan and budget commission? If we were to lose him, it would be wrong for the Majles and the government. He can play a major role in analyzing the Five-Year Plan. To have a deputy resigning just because he wants to be governor general contradicts the basic principle, which puts the Majles at the top of the list of priorities.

Mr. Navabi said: We have a lot of deputies from the previous Majles who are not in this Majles. Why does the Ministry of Interior reject all other proposals handed in by the deputies for the post of governor general and point a finger at a deputy who is useful and effective for the Majles?

In order to pay our respects to the people of Tabriz, in order to safeguard the dignity of the Majles and for the sake of the experience and past record of Mr. Sobhan-allahi and for the simple fact that because of current living conditions the Majles must have a greater supervisory role, we must not approve the gentleman's resignation.

Dr. Fatahi, the next speaker in opposition to the proposal, said: Mr. Sobhan-allahi, you have taken steps along God's path and in this process you have shown great stamina. Why are you sad? In the spirit of the Koran and in our culture, resignation does not mean anything. If you have a problem, we can solve it for you and we announce your problem right here. Why should we lessen the importance of the Majles for the sake of an executive position? How can you disappoint the people who voted for you? If you do not take back your resignation, the Majles will not accept your resignation.

Mohsen Kukhan the deputy from Lanjan spoke against the resignation and said: I have so far not found one religious excuse or reason to vote for this gentleman's resignation. If he has family problems, which deputy does not?

He added: One of the reasons why he wants to resign is the offer of a post of governor general. If the Ministry of Interior looked at this issue with an open mind, there are in truth people in that province who could run that province. Real support for the government means that we must use everything at our disposal to give the government the ability to move correctly within the law.

Mr. Nateq Nuri, the Majles speaker, replied to the comments made by Mr. Kukhan with regard to the Ministry of Interior, he said:

I want to make a point and it would be kind of Mr. Kukhan to pay attention, at the same time I do not want the Ministry of the Interior's rights to be ignored. As far as I am aware, the Ministry of the Interior asked Mr. Sobhan-allahi to become governor general of Zanjan Province after they reached the conclusion and after they found out that the deputy wanted to resign from the Majles because of personal problems. Mr. Sobhan-allahi has been intending to resign for a while now. He came to see a long time ago and asked for permission to resign because of personal reasons. Then the Ministry of the Interior found out that the gentleman had made up his mind to leave the Majles, so they decided that his experience should not go to waste. They thought he should be utilized in an executive capacity. So with his permission, I would like to correct the statement made by Mr. Kukhan. Mr. Sobhan-allahi has also written a letter to say that it should be mentioned that his resignation is not because of the post of governor general, but because of personal reasons.

Mr. Mokhtari spoke against the resignation and said: Going against the resignation is not going against the government. It is in support of the government to have Mr. Sobhan-allahi remain in the Majles. A group of deputies once told the Imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—that they all wanted to resign. He told them that he was more tired than all of them. I feel that the people of Tabriz are not happy about his resignation.

After the speeches of those against Mr. Sobhan-allahi's resignation, the motion was put to the vote and was rejected.

In the Majles Sidelines

After the end of the question from Mr. Mohammadi-far, the deputy from Sonqor and Kolya'i, addressed to the minister of the interior, the other deputies all approved with shouts of "hear, hear." According to the report filed by RESALAT'S parliamentary correspondent, the minister of the interior encountered negative reactions from some deputies.

Following the order issued by the great leader regarding all-out support for Jihad volunteers, these true and dedicated supporters of the revolution, the Majles took

steps before the judicial power. The joint commission in charge of defense and judicial and legal affairs, on 7 October 1992, approved of a plan called "the plan to provide legal support for the Jihad volunteers."

This plan allows the Jihad volunteer resistance forces to take necessary legal action when confronted with an obvious crime, in order to prevent the destruction of criminal evidence and to prevent the criminal from escaping justice. Any bodily harm against the Jihad volunteers, received in the course of their duty, is treated the same as bodily harm against employees of the justice department, and those found guilty will be punished according to the law.

Ratification of Three More Clauses of the Law Governing the Standards Organization

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion of the report from the first round of debate at the commission in charge of industries and mines regarding corrections made to the law governing the standards and industrial research organization of Iran. Some more items of this law were ratified by the deputies.

In accordance with Article 13 of this law, inspectors and experts of the organization are allowed to enter centers of production, packaging, storage and sales areas, and service centers for those products that have a compulsory standard. They are allowed to inspect the area and take samples.

Those responsible for production or service units and those in charge of areas where goods with compulsory standards are sold and presented are not allowed to bar access to inspectors. They are not allowed to prevent any inspections or sample taking by the inspectors. If they do, they will face imprisonment from five months to a year and monetary fines ranging from 500,000 rials to 1 million rials depending on the judgment of the appropriate court.

Article 14—If the producer or vendor of a specific product does not obey the law governing goods that have been standardized, or weights and measures that have been standardized, and if there is a complaint from a customer and the complaint is proven to be right, the standards' organization will pay for the entire loss incurred by the customer.

Article 15—The standards organization is allowed to employ appropriate persons and companies as experts. The manner of choosing personnel and defining their duties and responsibilities as well as their salaries will be in accordance with a charter to be approved by the supreme council in charge of standards.

Question Posed by the Deputy From Sonqor and Koliya'i, Addressed to the Minister of the Interior

Mohammadi-far, the deputy from Sonqor and Koliya'i, had questions on the differences and dissent among the Majlis deputies from the region, caused and fueled by the governor general's office in Kermanshahan Province, the purchase of about 10 million rials worth of gifts, taken from the general funds, for Mr. Nekvi'i, the previous governor general, the insults leveled at various officials by several governors, the minister of the interior's very severe and hostile confrontation with a brother POW, and who has lost his four brothers, both his parents, and all his limbs in the war, and so forth.

Reply From the Minister of Interior

The questions are mostly sound. In the various cases when the respected deputies have mentioned things in their speeches, or else when there are repeated complaints from executive officials, including those from the Ministry of the Interior—these are all being investigated by the judiciary and if God is willing, they will be pursued.

I see it as my duty to thank the officials in Bakhtaran Province for their all-out efforts, despite all the problems that exist, to implement the first Five-Year Plan, reconstruction, and comforting the province's population. They try with all their might, and unkindness does not make them disappointed. From this holy microphone in the Majlis I would like to tell the executive officers in the province that the respected government and the Ministry of the Interior value their work and support them. Unless, God forbid, there is a wrongdoing somewhere in which case none of the officials sees fit to ignore the situation. There is a request from the Majlis to carry out an investigation in the province. The Ministry of the Interior would like these questions to be sent to the commission in charge of questions. Even though this issue has to do with the respected deputy, I hope the truth and the realities that exist in this deprived, war-torn, and damaged province will become known to all the respected deputies and the dignified people, following detailed investigations.

Mr. Mohammadi-far gave a further speech outlining his questions: There were some conflicts right from the start, from the time that the governor general entered the innocent town of Kermanshah. They invited some of the gentlemen to a welcoming ceremony and they did not invite the others. There were also the 10 million rials' worth of gifts, taken from public funds by governors, municipalities, district governors, and some other provincial managers. The interior minister announced clearly at the commission in charge of councils, in the presence of the respected head of the councils, that he had given money from his own pocket to buy the gift. I have here a document from the governor general's office that issued an order for the gifts to be purchased. But they were afraid that if the minister of interior found out about the person signing the letter, they would be all sacked. I now give this receipt to Mr. Rowhani, this session's chairman, so that he can see for himself that these gentlemen really bought these gifts using public funds. Why do they then say that they paid for them out of their own pockets?

The text of the letter is as follows: "Accounting department, works division—It has been a coordinated decision with the municipalities in the province that each municipality be allowed to buy a separate farewell gift for Mr. Neku'i, the governor general of Bakhtaran Province, therefore we request that you purchase a television set."

He added: I have documents with regard to the incompetence of some executive officials in the province, which I will give to Mr. Rowhani and if he agrees, I will also give them to the respected deputies. So, you, Mr. Minister of the Interior, you carry out duties in this country as minister and I carry out my duty as a representative of these people. I swear to God and you should be sure tha these poor deprived people, who staged the revolution, who gave their property and their blood, these people also gave that money. You are truly being indifferent to the deputies' wishes. We the deputies from that province, went to the Ministry of the Interior at the beginning of our term so that we could coordinate our actions with the Ministry of the Interior. There, he was clearly rude toward the deputies. I will tell you what he said. He said: "The deputies can do what they like. They should go and use the power that they have been given. I am minister and I do what I like." Unfortunately the minister of the interior does not pay the slightest attention to the wishes of the deputies and I am sure that he does not care.

He added: One POW brother, from a respected family of martyrs, came to me after the farewell ceremony for the previous governor general. I introduced him to the minister of the interior and asked him to give the soldier an appointment so that he could go and discuss his problems. The minister of interior said in a very hostile voice: "I don't have the time," and he turned around and left very quickly. This dear young person who was scared and who had tolerated the torture in the Ba'thist jail, started to cry. I told him not to cry. I said I would go and see the minister again. The interior minister says in meetings and councils: "No, that was not the case. I met that person after you left." I do not know. Perhaps it was the harsh tone, which really was below the dignity of a POW and the respected family of martyrs. I was there until the end when you and others went to the home of the respected Friday imam of Kermanshah to have lunch there. I was there. This is the family of a POW with all the blood that has been spilt. I did not see you have a meeting with that person. The truth must be told.

After the speech given by Mr. Mohammadi-far, the minister of the interior, Mr. Nuri made some remarks: The issues that our brother has mentioned are things we have looked into and they are not true. I think the best body to judge this issue is the respected Majles. Some gentlemen should be selected from the Majles and the respected Majles leadership to look into the problems of Bakhtaran Province in detail. Whatever they say, I, as minister of the interior, will implement them. For example he mentioned the issue of gifts. The gifts problem should be reviewed to see how much of what the brothers have been told is true. He said that the courts have pursued this case. As it happens one of the things discussed in court was the same issue that this brother talked about from the Majles microphones. He said that executive officials paid for these gifts using public funds. He said he had documents. The judicial power will investigate this. I think that the Majles should investigate and whatever they decide, we will take action. We have no problem with that.

Mr. Nuri added: As far as we have been able to tell, this is not the way it happened and the truth of the matter is something else.

Since Mr. Mohammadi-far was not satisfied with the answer given by the minister of the interior, the issue was sent to the commission in charge of Article 90 of the Constitution, which has replaced the commission in charge of questions.

* 21 Oct

91AS0145A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Oct 92 p 5

[Text] Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Division. Yesterday the Majles met in open session. During this session the deputies from Mashhad, Talesh, Sowme'eh-sa, and Jahrom gave speeches, and then the Majles took up its agenda. It continued its consideration of the Standards and Industrial Research Institute Law, and several more articles were approved with amendments. We direct your attention to the speeches and legislation from yesterday's Majles session.

Seyyed Hashem Bani-Hashem, Deputy From Mashhad

The various plots to sow discord and foment conflict created by the enemies of Islam must be thwarted with awareness by Muslim nations and governments.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Mr. Seyyed Hashem Bani-Hashem, from the Mashhad electoral district. In his speech he said: It can now be said that after 1,000 years the world of Islam has awakened. Abu Reyhan Biruni once did precise calculations on science, figures and astronomy, but in recent centuries Europe has confiscated this very knowledge in its own name. The Muslim awakening began to flourish under the Islamic revolution of Iran led by His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him). The postrevolutionary period is now 14 years old, and they have greater awareness.

He said: The collapse of the communist system, the destruction of power blocs in the world, and the resistance by Muslims in Palestine, Lebanon, Algeria, Afghanistan, and Bosnia-Hercegovina are all signs of the awareness of the Muslims of the world. Unity in the Muslim world, and especially regional cooperation, can establish coordinated units for helping and aiding in the defense against the enemies of Islam, and to obtain knowledge and technology to develop and grow Islamic societies. There are resources, mines, ports and strategic

positions in the world of Islam, and they are good potential for fighting the enemies of humanity.

The deputy from Mashhad also said: If one day the Persian Gulf war was ignited and the region's resources and wealth were destroyed, another day the Abu Musa problem came up, which created an opportunity for the superpowers to sell more arms and achieve influence, and these kinds of things must be stopped by the awareness of Muslim nations and governments. The Muslim nation of Afghanistan was able, in an unequal war, to stand up against the Russian aggressors and their domestic agents and to be victorious. I offer congratulations to the heroic nation of Afghanistan on this success.

Continuing, Bani-Hashem said: The nation of Iran has always and continues to consider itself in partnership and sympathy with the nation of Afghanistan. Throughout the war against the occupation of Afghanistan, thousands of brothers and sisters from Afghanistan have lived in Iran. Despite the problems arising from the Iran-Iraq war that have developed for the people of Iran, they have been accepted as guests, and the people of Iran, especially those in Sacred Mashhad, have considered this task to be a national and religious duty. In this regard, resources such as schools, employment, food and housing have brought about advancement for them.

The speaker added: Now that conditions exist for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, it is the powerful hand of the nation of Afghanistan that will be able to usher in a period of economic prosperity and development for their country, and consequently the experience and assistance of the people and government of Iran are available to help you go home and rebuild.

Under the conditions that have already been brought about for us, under which our people face difficulties in postwar reconstruction, as well as population growth and the problems of urban life, it is necessary to praise you, in the several years in which you were a guest, for having observed the circumstances of Iranians and prepared for your own return.

I must mention that along with the many Afghan specialists, workers, and laborers living in Iran, there are Afghans who are illegally buying, selling, and opening stores and distributing narcotics and implements of corruption and fornication, so that even now about 20 percent of the prisoners in Mashhad are Afghans, and 70 percent of the crimes in the province of Khorasan arise from the sale or consumption of narcotics. These crimes must be approached seriously by officials of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Commerce, and other province and national officials.

Naturally the respected Ministry of Foreign Affairs is well aware of the bad effects of long term and uncontrolled residence by aliens in this land, no matter how close they are to us politically and ideologically. Often malfunctions and the inability to maintain order in a society cause social and economic problems among the native people in an area, such as the unfortunate incident that took place on 9 Khordad [30 May] this year in sacred Mashhad.

Continuing his talk, the deputy from Mashhad also said: The second Five-Year Plan, which the government has already begun to study, in reality must be a plan to stabilize the reconstruction based on the specific principles and regulations of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and it must come with a system and a plan that is a correct assessment of the capabilities for growth and development in the country, with a minimum of fluctuation and deviation from what is projected. This task will require the use of experts and important groups such as the Majles.

An assessment of the performance of the banks on their commitments to procure housing and agricultural loans, which was an important part of the Five-Year Plan, shows that farmers and producers of agricultural crops were not able to benefit in a good way from the plan's support, and they see the continuation of work in agricultural production as unreliable.

Likewise, in the area of housing investment, which is considered a priority in government support service to the people, the failure of the banks to carry out their commitments in accordance with the plan has created many problems for the classes of society. What principles should the banks follow in investment policy? Should they follow their own programs or special views? The propaganda to attract public investment mostly emphasizes production, but bank investment policies are mostly aimed at services, and this violates the principles of the Five-Year Plan.

He likewise added: The failure to implement Paragraph Z, Note 26 of the 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] Budget Law with regard to the 100 million rials in loans that the banks were supposed to grant to the Gas Company to develop the residential gas delivery network and to the hasty decision made on 7/18/1371 [Oct. 10 1992] by the Economic Council, and its sudden announcement at the beginning of winter caused the public to be pessimistic about executive officials. Of course the respected minister of petroleum's failure to make preparations on how to inform the public about the increased gas rates is also to be criticized, and the social and political damaged caused by this kind of decisionmaking is irreparable.

On the one hand we see that the respected president of the republic, at a joint meeting with the Council of Ministers and the Majles, announced that one important task we must carry out is to establish a single rate for foreign exchange, but the government and the Majles must undertake a joint expert study of the matter.

We see however, that before there is even one preliminary consultation with the Majles, the matter is presented to the society by the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, and he raises the fear that it seems that after the decisions are made, presented to the society and

the planning is done, then the Majles must be consulted. This set the Majles up as being opposed to action.

Already, with the announcement of this matter, decisionmaking has been undercut for most organizations and individuals in policymaking and economic activity, and the affirmative intelligence and speed, which had been established for investment and sound economic activity, has fallen into stagnation and confusion. Naturally it was expected that after the government's expert work with the Majles and the answer given concerning the problems and positive and negative side effects arising from the establishment of a single foreign exchange rate, the public would be informed about this decision at the appropriate time.

Rasti-Hashemi noted: I consider it my duty to discuss some of the high points emphasized by the exalted leader, such as the enjoining of good and prohibiting of evil, which on the one hand is a divine command and on the other is a personal and social duty ordered by him so that we will be able to recognize forbidden things in society in, the work place and in life, remind one another in a worthy manner, and work to eliminate them. Another matter is serving to the needs of the deprived classes of society, which is one of the most important goals of the Islamic revolution.

Under current conditions, while the policy of economic adjustment is being implemented, serious attention must be paid to low-income and weak people, especially villagers and small producers. We must not assess any kind of expenditure in terms of economic distribution, because economic and social distribution or development work are much more fruitful than their economic dimension, and in the same regard we must take note of his command to employ committed and aware experts to deal with the issues and goals of the Islamic revolution, and we must emphasize giving priority to the employment in needed positions of herbollah specialist forces who have been tested by the fires of the events before and after the Islamic revolution, instead of specialists who have fled the country.

Waste and unnecessary spending on the current costs of the executive organizations and on official and unofficial functions must be seriously avoided, and every rial from the public treasury must be spent more scrupulously than one's own assets.

Mojtaba 'Erfani, Deputy From Tabriz

The nation's executive managers need an information transfer network so that the nation's management will make rapid, correct, and informed decisions.

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mojtaba 'Erfani, deputy from Tabriz. In his speech he offered condolences to the leader and the West Tehran Society of Combative Clergy on the occasion of the passing of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Irvani. He said: I hope, God willing, that the great brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Mojtabed Shabestari, with the intelligence and wisdom that I know him to have, will create more harmony than before among the combative clergy of West Tehran in filling the position of this great man. I likewise offer my praise and thanks for the service and toil of the nameless soldier of the revolution, Hojjat ol-Eslam Qutlizadeh, who manfully defended the gains of the Islamic revolution during the sensitive periods of the revolution.

He then congratulated the people of Ardebil on this city's becoming a province and he praised and thanked the mobilization and the literacy crusade of the municipality of Tabriz for the high quality of their activities.

He said: Focus and centralization is one of the future problems of our nation's economy that is taking shape. If this serious problem is not dealt with, in the future it will turn into consequences in the infrastructure. So far the nation's mother industries and most of the factories in that category, which used several types of foreign exchange, were profitable because of the difference in foreign exchange rates and their factories were working. In view of the logical policy of establishing a single foreign exchange rate, there is the obstacle that a kind of economic stagnation is expected in the market, where with lack of demand for their products, these factories will be faced with bankruptcy. The consequent increase in unemployment and personnel inflation in most factories, of which talk is being heard already, illustrate this problem.

I recommend that arrangements be made in this regard so that strategic products produced within the country by the government be converted to sales, and while emphasizing exports and also understanding international markets instead of engaging in scattered activities for exports by export teams, various types of Iranian goods should be introduced abroad, and world markets for exports must be identified and pursued.

He likewise discussed the technological advancements in communications. He said: Advances in communications have been made today that have transformed societies. Providing computerized communications for the nation is a basic infrastructure need. The existence of communications and the striking increase in national expenditures are potent factors. The fruitful efforts of the Ministry of Communications in the years after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, have shown their best side, especially in recent years, when genius, rapid action and collected commitment and specialization have crystallized in the external environment.

He noted that we have 13,000 villages in the country, and that before the revolution 300 villages had telephone communications. He said: Since the revolution more than 5,000 villages have been added to the telephone and communications network. We hope that communications resources will be provided quickly in the rural areas.

He added: The nation's executive managers need an information transfer network, and this network must be expanded so that with the help of this important resource

the nation's management will make rapid, correct, and informed decisions. Likewise the relevant ministry must make international advances in information delivery systems more available to the people, so they can avoid wasting time and money by obtaining information about work hours, public resources, and air and rail services. Likewise Note 40 of the first Five-Year Plan, which substitutes postal communications for personal trips to offices, must be implemented, so that the necessary executive environment will exist in all organizations and ministries.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that measures will be taken to build a dam in the area to help alleviate deprivation.

Qasem Ramazanpur, Deputy From Sowme'eh-sara

In his speech Mr. Ramazanpur Nargasi from the Sowme'eh-sara electoral district thanked the people for their wide turnout in the elections to the Fourth Majles and he protested the irregular performance and the untimely distribution of rice by the executive organizations. He said: Unfortunately, this year we have seen this method and of course this problem has been alleviated somewhat through the president of the republic's intervention. Here I consider it necessary to convey to him the thanks of the farmers of the province of Gilan.

He added: As a representative of the people, my request of the government is that it adopt a specific policy right now on the rice problem. Unfortunately the inference is sometimes drawn that the remarks and protests by the deputies from Gilan and Mazandaran cause consumers to be overcharged. What we are saying is that when the price of rice is 1,800 to 1,900 rials on the market and is putting pressure on consumers, at that time if the government imports rice and wants to distribute ration coupons, it should do it at that time.

Mohammad Mahdi Shoja'i, Deputy From Jahrom

The services that the government has rendered so far have not been adequately portrayed because of weak public relations in the ministries.

Mr. Mohammad Mahdi Shoja'i-Fard, deputy from Jahrom, was the final pre-agenda speaker. In his speech he said: I thank God that we are living under the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a government under which our clergymen hoped to live. Therefore, we cannot be thankful enough.

The services that the government has rendered so far have not been adequately portrayed unfortunately, because of weak public relations in the ministries. They spawned a special frenzy of activity, especially after your resolution was accepted in the country, from the building of dams, of which 202 are already being built, to many other things.

He then discussed the matter of human rights. He said: The human rights issue that now exists has to do with America and England. My advice from this national podium to all the parliaments of the various countries is to give new organizations to the Human Rights Organization, and with the confirmation of the deputies in the parliaments of various countries, the Human Rights Organization will learn.

He noted that the measure of human rights in Iran is its nations, and concerning domestic affairs, he said: My advice to the Ministry of the Interior is that it train managers, governors general and governors. Now that 10 to 12 years have passed since the Islamic revolution, we see that the governors general and other officials have been taken from other organizations. The Ministry of the Interior can establish a university in which to train its specialist forces so that these problems we are having today will not exist.

He then discussed the speed of economic adjustment. He said: The speed of the economic adjustment in the country has broken the backs of the vulnerable classes, and sometimes the thought comes to mind that in some quarters a war of nerves is going on. Currently most of the ministries are moving towards privatization.

Continuing, Mr. Shoja'i-Fard discussed his electoral district. He said: The municipality of Jahrom arose in the year 1342 [21 Mar 1963-20 Mar 1964] along with other classes of people, but unfortunately there has been little sign in Jahrom of the expected events. In Jahrom there are problems ranging from shortages of water to shortages of gas and roads. Unfortunately, credits for the national cities in the year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] in Fars Province, compared to neighboring provinces, were 5 million tomans, while credits in the province of Khuzestan were 100 billion tomans and they were 80 million in the province of Esfahan.

Deputy Messes to Nation's Executive Officials at Yesterday's Open Majles Session

Dr. Shibani (Tehran) to the minister of energy—preventing the consumption of Tehran's urban drinking water to water some large government and nongovernment gardens.

Mr. Habibian (Hamadan) to the minister of petroleum—expedite the putting into service of the third kerosene pipeline and likewise alleviate the shortage of tar in Hamadan.

Mr. Habibian (Hamadan) to the minister of education and training—what is the reason for the failure to distribute the 13 new system text books in Hamadan, likewise, procure the necessary credit to buy land for education and training in Hamadan?

Mr. Hemmati (Meshkin Shahr) to the minister of energy—what is the reason for the failure to spend the credits for the Khia and Chay hydroelectric power station?

Legislation

The first item on the agenda at the open Majles session was continued consideration of the Bill to Amend the Standards and Industrial Research Institute Law, of which a few additional articles were approved by the Majles.

Article 1—The institute is authorized to receive appropriate commissions in return for the services it renders in accordance with the service classifications and under the tariffs designated and approved directly by the Supreme Standards Council.

Article 17—The institute is required to operate appropriate laboratories at all the nation's entry and exit customs stations.

Note 1—All the laboratories that were taken from the institute based on a measure enacted by the Council of Ministers will be returned to the institute.

Note 2—The nation's customs officers are required to obtain their laboratory services from the laboratories of the Iran Institute of Industrial Standards Research.

Article 18—The components of the institute are:
1. The Supreme Standards Council
2. The chief of the institute

The Supreme Standards Council

Article 19—The components of the Supreme Standards Council are:

1. The president of the republic, who serves as chief of the Supreme Standards Council

2. The ministers of industry, heavy industry, mines and metals, culture and higher education, health care, treatment and medical education, commerce and agriculture

3. The chief of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Mines of Iran

4. The chief of the institute, acting as secretary of the Supreme Standards Council

5. Two experts on standards affairs, chosen to this position for three years on the recommendation of the chief of the institute and by order of the president of the republic

Note 1—The Supreme Standards Council will meet at least once a year. It will gather at the invitation of the chief of the Supreme Standards Council; the attendance of eight members will constitute a quorum.

Note 2—Decisions by the Supreme Standards Council will be made based on a minimum of seven favorable votes, and the discussions and decisions made by the Supreme Standards Council will be recorded under the dates of the sessions and will be signed by the chief of the Supreme Standards Council.

Continued discussion was postponed to the next session. Likewise yesterday Dr. Ghaffori-Fard, chief of the Physical Training Organization, gave a report to the deputies in closed session on the nation's physical training and sports. The next open Majles session will be next Sunday.

* 25 Oct

934500464 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Oct 92 pp 5, 8

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. Yesterday, the Majles held an open session with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding, and the deputies of Semnan, Sepidan, Qorveh, Naqdeh, and Maku made speeches. Then the Majles went into session and pursued the examination of the bill on amending the laws and regulations of the Iranian Standards and Research Institute as well as other articles in it. We call to the readers' attention the speeches, ratifications, and the margins of the Majles.

Seyyed Reza Akrami, Deputy From Semnan

The first pre-agenda speaker of yesterday's open session was Seyyed Reza Akrami, the deputy from Semnan, who said: For three days last week and this week, the province of Semnan was host to the distinguished person of prayer, "first in knowledge, faith, and action," that is, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable and beloved president of Islamic Iran. I hereby thank his honor and his accompanying delegation, the vice president for executive affairs; the head of the affairs of the oppressed regions; the first deputy speaker of the Majles; the ministers of energy, roads, labor, jihad, industries, and post, telegraph and telephone; the most revered clerics; and his other companions.

He also added: I hope this visit will bring overall blessings to Islamic Iran and the province, especially in regards to drinking water, harnessing 1.2 billion cubic meters of rain water, the development of higher education, harnessing the desert, industries, and agriculture. Also, I thank the people of the province who are always present on the scene for their significant welcome and the officials of the province for their hard work and overall planning.

Seyyed Abolfazl Razavi, Deputy From Sepidan

Seyyed Abolfazl Razavi, the deputy from Sepidan, was another pre-agenda speaker. He said: The formation of the Fourth Majles, under its own special conditions, was a divine blessing bestowed upon our regime. The nation went to the ballot boxes with enthusiasm and excitement even though their late Imam, that superman of history and their great leader, was not among them. The leadership of this nation was, however, in the competent hands of a great man, one of his best and most sincere students, who possesses many of the same qualities of His Holiness.

He added: His proper and timely guidance and the warnings that stemmed from the strong belief of the leader in the principles of the revolution not only prevented the slightest harm to the principles of the revolution following [the death of] the Imam, but continued the path, the faith, and the principles that the late Imam had decisively determined. After the death of its great leader, the Islamic revolution was confronted with horrible storms and events. Had it not been for God's special attention, the wise guidance of the leader, and the creative policies of the government, it would have suffered irreparable damage. But, thank God, the ship of the revolution continued on course with creative and pious leadership. The establishment of the Fourth Majles, with this proper composition, is one of the blessings of that guidance, that policy, and the awareness of the nation. The nation saw that the continuation of the path of the Imam is only possible through the wise leadership of the leader, a strong Majles, and a serious, pure, and serving government. I make this statement decisively. If the Imam were alive, he would give his strongest support to this government and its head. Yes, the people know this. The frequent visits of the president to Iranian cities and his great welcome by the people indicate the political understanding of the people and their strong support for the officials of the regime. Despite all the disruptions, the spreading of poison, and the problems, the people know well that the revolution is on the right track and that the very important projects of the president, within the framework of the progressive and revitalizing first and second Five-Year Plans, will lead the country towards political and economic stability and growth, progress, and self-sufficiency. Based on the same understanding of the people, they established the Fourth Majles and now expect economic and political reforms.

Continuing, Razavi pointed out: It is our duty to help the serving government alongside the nation and absolutely obey the religious guardian to achieve the sacred goals of the Imam.

In his reminders, he then said: I am most disappointed in the minister of interior for not responding to the letters and also not paying attention to the letter of the president and request that, while he is a minister, he revise his methods in regards to the Majles and the officials.

He then made reminders to SALAM newspaper in regard to false reports and said concerning his constituency: Among the problems of the city of Sepidan is the lack of such offices as an office of documents and property registration. The people are even deprived of benefits and bank loans. The honorable minister of justice has issued instructions, and the documents have been sent to the document agency.

He emphasized failures with regard to the forming of an urban land agency, social security, a city hall in Beyda division, the building of the Nurabad-Sepidan Road, the building of a beltway, creating a free university, expediting the national division reforms, the annexation of the region of Pushtkuh to Sepidan, and also the creation of scientific and cultural centers in the city of Sepidan.

He continued: The city of Sepidan, with Ardakan as its center, is a beautiful area with rare and pleasant natural sights and rich with God-given resources in the province of Fars. This city is 22,035 square meters in area and is located northwest of Shiraz, 70 km from the center of that city. Sepidan is near the city of Marvdasht to the north, Mamasani to the south, Shiraz to the east, and the city of Yasuj to the west. The population of this area is mostly rural. Contrary to other parts of the country, 86.1 percent of its population reside in rural areas and 13.9 percent in urban areas.

With its agreeable climate, rivers, and springs, it can be a great resource for the economic, social, and cultural progress of this city.

Seyyed Mas'ud Hosseyni, Deputy From Qorveh

Seyyed Mas'ud Hosseyni, the deputy from Qorveh to the Majles, said in his pre-agenda speech: We thank God that the collaters/ of the great Islamic revolution and the leaders of the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic are the people, who are always able and present on the scene, and who through their fruitful presence on various scenes have always supported and still support the officials of the regime.

Praising the vast presence of the people of Kurdistan in the recent Majles elections, he said: I hope with the help of God the Fourth Majles will be able to solve the problems of the hard-working, noble people of Iran, and the enemies of the Islamic Republic will continue to despairingly pursue their blind ways to reach the abyss of their thoughts in the cesspool of deviation.

At the present, every day the enemies of Iran, with futile excuses, through their lying propaganda loudspeakers, use day in the name of cultural invasion and another in the name of coveting an island, hope to achieve their sinister goals. But, as we know, the noble people of Iran, with alertness and full understanding, have dealt and will deal with such problems.

Stating that the enemies must know that the Muslim people of Iran will at no time, under no circumstances, allow an inch of Iranian soil to be violated, he pointed out: The global oppressors have once again engaged in a conspiracy to establish a large base in the Persian Gulf and bring the entire area under their domination. But they are negligent of the fact that they want to fight a country whose soldiers have been raised in the lap of such a great leader as Khomeyni. Everyone knows that Abu Musa and the islands of Tonb-e Buzorg and Tonb-e Kuchek belong to Iran and that keeping a greedy eye on them is futile, because if this occurs, the issue of Bahrain, which was at one time a part of Iran, will be raised. Considering these issues, the leaders of the Persian Gulf countries must know that such claims are neither in their

interests nor in the interests of their nations. The reactionary leaders, too, must know that they cannot achieve their sinister goals by making such plans.

He added: Today, it is vital and imperative that we fight cultural invasion and think about solutions.

Of course, I also say that, fortunately, the religious Muslim youth in Kurdistan, considering the expansive invasion of this dangerous blight, have been safe from deviation, and this problem, considering the vast unemployment in this oppressed area, is significant and indicates the important point that we must think of essential solutions for the youth. They must have sufficient recreational and athletic resources in order for the future builders of our Islamic country to be safe from this social problem forever.

Continuing, the deputy from Qorveh referred to the problems of his constituency and said: Today, Kurdistan, despite the conflicts that have dominated it for several years, has become a place filled with hope and sincerity in which the grounds are right for progress. But, unfortunately, at the same time, the young people in Kurdistan, including the students, are confronting numerous problems and the grounds for the growth of native forces. Today, the people of this oppressed area, including the educators, government employees, farmers, and other strata of the society, face problems such as red tape in offices and the replacing of regulations with relationships. They ask for the serious attention of the officials to eliminate these problems in order to prevent the grounds for misuse by the hypocrites and the blind at heart.

I ask of the serving government, the sincere friends of the great leader, and the honorable regime of the president that, in order to eliminate unemployment in Kurdistan, considering the high unemployment rate, they try harder to create jobs throughout the province, particularly in Qorveh and Dehgolan, so that the oppressed in this region, who have an authentic culture, literacy base, and significant history, will benefit from their sincere efforts in this sacred place.

He then explained: Considering that the area is in a cold region and that winter is approaching, and also considering that Phase 1 of the natural gas outreach has been completed, I ask the Ministry of Petroleum to take steps to expedite lighting it.

He then made reminders to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to make use of the cultural and artistic potential of the young people in Kurdistan, to the minister of roads and transport in regard to paying serious attention to road building in this region, to the ministers of industries and mines to allocate a percentage of the revenues from the Qorveh stone mines to eliminate deprivation in the Province of Kurdistan, and to the minister of agriculture to attend to the numerous problems of farmers.

He also asked the government officials and employment organizations to modify their views to employ the native forces of Kurdistan.

In conclusion, he asked the government to work to eliminate the problems of inflation in order to solve the material and spiritual problems of the downtrodden in the society.

Rasul Porzeman, Deputy From Naqdeh

Rasul Porzeman, the deputy from Naqdeh, was another pre-agenda speaker. He said: Now that the world has assumed a new shape, with the very rapid and widespread changes and the global oppressors making the most use of it within their illegitimate domain, war, slaughter, and bloodshed continue in the Muslim Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and every day countless numbers of suffering Muslims are killed in the backyard of those who profess a dedication to human rights.

He added: The current atrocities in the above-mentioned republic place a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of the Islamic societies and countries. The Islamic world must seriously study practical ways to end the merciless crimes of the Serbs against the life and property of the defenseless Muslims in Bosnia. Considering these changes and the existing policies in the world, our approach is that in order to preserve the old power and greatness of the country and to protect the territorial integrity of our Islamic country, we will not stop at any effort, not be negligent for a moment, and with full knowledge and farsightedness, will dominate the political and geographical changes. In this direction, Azarbaijan has always been the stronghold of this country, and the brave people of this region in the course of their combative history have withstood the test and paid their debt to this country. The city of Naqdeh, with its districts and suburbs, has shone as a bright satellite, and by offering its best youth and brave and patriotic men has always been and is the protector of the independence and national interests of this country.

Porzeman continued: The revolutionary patience and resistance of the people and the self-sacrifice of the combatants against heathenism on the battle fronts of right against wrong prove this point. Hence, considering the principle of balancing industry and agriculture, economic and social development, attention to proper planning to balance the population distribution in proportion with the potential of the regions, starting to devise the Five-Year Plan, and the need to pay attention to the oppressed areas in this plan, given the strong agricultural potential, water, and abundant manpower in Azarbaijan and Dasht-e Naqdeh, the strengthening of Azarbaijan in general and the development of the city of Naqdeh in all dimensions in particular require the attention of the honorable president and the serving government.

I beg of the president and the head of the Plan and Budget Organization to issue instructions to expedite the payment of the funds allocated for the building of

schools and completing the existing developmental projects in Azarbaijan and the cities of Naqdeh, Oshnuyeh, and Mohammadyar.

Strengthening and expanding Nur University throughout the country, allocating the two fields of agriculture and health, and providing for the basic needs of Payam-e Nur University of Naqdeh are among the urgent needs requiring action by the officials.

I ask the head of the Physical Education Agency to pay more attention to physical eduction in Naqdeh.

He also mentioned as necessary the creation of the Office of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the Office of Islamic Propaganda; strengthening the scientific, cultural, and religious centers in Naqdeh; and the creation of the Office of Registration Organization in Mohammadyar.

Mohammad 'Abbaspur, Deputy From Maku

Mohammad 'Abbaspur, the deputy from Maku, was the last pre-agenda speaker. He said: In the continuation of the confrontation of Islam and heathenism, once again the oppressors have started a sinister song against Islam and Muslims. While they have a hand in all conspiracies, they want to create discord among the Islamic governments and nations one day. One day they speak of human rights and the rumor of the people's deviation from the values of the Islamic revolution, and, imagining the establishment of the so-called New World Order, they want to draw a security belt around Iran. But they must be assured that Islamic Iran, under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i, the decisive presence of the nation on the scene, and the Islamic and national will and determination will continue to cry for justice and defend territorial and national integrity. While supporting the good political initiatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in all international arenas, the nation supports the government. Referring to the writing of the second Five-Year Plan of the government, he said: Now that the government is deciding about establishing a single rate for foreign currency, once again attention to domestic production and industries and the issue of reducing inflation and pressure on the vulnerable stratum in the society must be mentioned. We expect the experts who write the second Five-Year Plan and the 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] budget to pay attention to the problem of the oppressed areas in the country. In this connection, the province of Western Azarbaijan, because of its special geographical conditions, its strategic location, and being a neighbor to countries that each have their own special conditions, is unfortunately one of the deprived regions of the country in terms of cultural and economic conditions in the areas of industry, agriculture, and animal husbandry. While the potential mines and agricultural and animal husbandry resources exist in every inch of our Islamic homeland, the conversion of industries in all areas is weak. The Urmia salt lake, according to the research, analysis, and verification of domestic and foreign experts, is one of the greatest sources of magnesium oxide and sodium carbonate as well as some rare chemicals in the world. We expect the plan and budget experts, in order to achieve self-sufficiency, rely on nonpetroleum products, and obtain chemical products from Urmia Lake, to pay special attention to it in the national budget and programs. While the province of Western Azarbaijan, especially the border city of Maku, is among the important regions to determine free trade between several neighboring republics and countries and in this way can be successful in attracting foreign investments and making the domestic market thrive, I propose to study and establish a free trade zone in this region.

He also pointed out: The people of Maku and its surrounding areas use unhealthy drinking water and suffer from insufficient health and treatment resources. Mr. Maiekzadeh, while the proposal for the creation of a 96-bed hospital in Maku has been approved and all the phases, such as purchasing land at a value of 530 million rials by the City Hall and the allocation of funds by the Social Security Organization, have been carried out, considering a population of 20,000 people and visits by at least 1,000 travelers every day, involving issues such as quarantine, etc., why do you not pay attention to the building of this hospital? Enslaving yourself to figures and statistics and unrealistic resources in regards to hospitals will not solve any problem.

Ratifications

The agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the continuation of the examination of the bill on amending the laws and regulations of the Iranian Industrial Standards and Research Institute, of which several other articles were ratified by the deputies.

Article 20. The duties and authority of the Supreme Council on Standards will be as follows:

1. Examining the reports by the director of the institute concerning the actions and programs that have been carried out and determining the future policies of the institute in regard to the issues pertaining to standards in the country.

2. Determining the general policies of the institute in regard to devising standards.

3. Approving the financial, administrative, and employment bylaws of the institute in keeping with the laws and regulations.

4. Ratifying and amending the annual budget of the institute.

5. Approving the mandatory implementation of standards throughout the country.

6. Approval of the tariff on wages for offering annual services and laboratory, research, educational, and other services needed by the institute along with the schedule of announcing the results of the tests.

7. Implementation of mandatory and incentive standards, periodical control of weights and measures, and implementation of other bylaws needed by the institute.

8. Decisions about conferring some of the implemental authority to other institutions or organizations.

9. Supervision and proper operation of the institute.

10. Examining the reports and evaluation of actions taken and revising the general policies of the institute, if necessary.

11. Approving the annual revenues and expenditures account of the institute in terms of clearing and settling the account of the institute each year.

12. Approving the duties, methods, and procedures for the election of the national standards committee upon the suggestion of the institute.

13. Decisions concerning the cooperative relations in regard to standards with scientific organizations and similar foreign institutes within the framework of national regulations.

14. Approving the regulations concerning the offering of inspection services by the institute to government and nongovernment sectors.

15. Approval of the organizational chart of the institute and determining the organizational positions needed upon the suggestion of the director of the institute.

16. Approval of the proposal for official labels of standards.

Director of the Institute

Article 21. The director of the institute shall be selected to serve a term of three years upon the suggestion of the minister of industries, the approval of the Supreme Standards Council, and the order of the president. The director of the institute can be reappointed for the next term.

Article 22. The director of the institute shall be the highest administrative, financial, and technical official of the institute and in charge of all administration, executive, research, and educational affairs of the institute and its affiliates. Dismissals and appointments and determining the salaries of employees shall be based on the related bylaws within the ratified funds and within the authority of the director of the institute.

Article 23. All checks and financial documents and papers must be signed by the director and the accountant of the institute or their fully authorized representatives.

Section 4, Other Regulations

Article 24. The budget of the institute shall come from the annual budget of the government and the revenues of the institute for offering laboratory, research, and educational services and supervision over the implementation of standards and the use of standards labels.

Also, Article 25 states: All revenues and aid received by the institute shall be deposited in the treasury and spent according to the coordinated system of payments.

Note: Debts to the institute by actual or legal persons are considered among their primary debts.

Article 27. Government aid shall be included in the national budget appropriate to the needs of the institute every year.

Article 28. The institute shall be subject to national employment law and the law of coordinated system of payments ratified on 13/6/70 [4 Sep 1991] by the Majles.

Article 29. From the date of the ratification of this law, all contrary laws are nullified.

Articles attached to the bill:

Article 30. Law enforcement agents are responsible for cooperating with the inspectors and experts of this institute in all phases.

The continuation of the examination of the bill was postponed to the next session.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

WHAT PEOPLE SAY is the name of the bulletin of the Majles, published by the public relations office of the Majles for the honorable deputies. The content of the bulletin is exactly the telephone calls of the people to the Suggestions Unit and criticism of the Majles, which is collected and put at the disposal of the deputies. Because of the importance of the issue, an item published in the judicial and legal section of the bulletin is quoted:

Why do you not clarify the situation for us people who had invested in limited partnership companies? Out of desperation, we gave money to these companies, which we believed to be trustworthy. Why is it that the prosecutors offices, which now claim that these partnership companies were embezzlers, have left us in a quandary, and every year passes without us getting our money?

On the Margins of the Majles

The minister of agriculture of Tajikistan in the Parliament:

The agricultural minister of Tajikistan and his accompanying delegation, who are in Tehran, visited the Majles yesterday and observed the activities of the legislative branch and the legislative process.

Proposal for the Student Welfare Fund

In the open session of the Majles yesterday, a number of proposals and bills were received. Among them were the proposal for the student welfare fund, the proposal to

change the name of the Province of Bakhtaran to Kermanshahan, and the proposal on the procedures to implement Articles 88 and 90 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Open Session and the Time for Prayers

In the open session of the Majles yesterday, Mr. Movahhedi-Kermani, the deputy from Tehran, read Article 63 of the internal bylaws of the Majles stating that the maximum time for every session is four hours and said: The note to this article states that the time for the Majles to go into session must be regulated in such a way that it does not interfere with prayer times.

He added: We have Majles bylaws stating that we cannot have official sessions at the time for prayers, and you (addressing the speaker of the Majles) say that it has been the tradition to ask the Majles for permission, which is contrary to the bylaws. If the Majles wants to, it must write bylaws and have them ratified by two-thirds of the deputies.

Mr. Movahhedi-Kermani also emphasized that upon the recommendations of the revered leader and other gentlemen concerning attention to and the importance of prayers, the Majles must be a model in this regard, and if we become occupied during prayer time, it will become a model for everybody.

Then, the speaker of the Majles responded: The second part of your statement was advice and guidance which, God willing, will be effective and was not in the bylaws. But my understanding of the note is that Majles sessions should be set such that they will not conflict with prayer times. He explained: We start the Majles session at 8:15 am, which, allowing four hours, should last until 1215, and, if necessary, the session will continue. This is enacted upon a decision by the speaker of the Majles or with the approval of the Majles.

Also, Mr. Hashemian, the deputy of Rafsanjan, made a reminder about the bylaws and verified the correctness of the statements by Mr. Movahhedi-Kermani. He said: The intent of the bylaws is the performance of prayers at the start of the time.

It is interesting that after some minutes, Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the speaker of the Majles, said: In order to honor the opinion of Mr. Movahhedi and some of the other deputies, the continuation of discussions will be postponed to the next session, so that prayers can be performed.

Letter of Dr. Kashani to the Speaker of the Majles

Dr. Mahmud Kashani, professor of the College of Law, wrote a letter to the speaker of the Majles that concerns the claims of the four American companies in the international court at the Hague. Here is the letter:

Honorable Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, honorable speaker of the Majles

Greetings. As you know, a number of American oil companies have made claims in the Iranian-U.S. Arbitration Court at the Hague in Holland against the National Oil Company and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning oil contracts. Among these cases, the claims of four American oil companies have a special outcome. These four companies signed a joint agreement with the National Iranian Oil Company in 1965 to explore and operate in one of the Persian Gulf areas. According to the agreement, the Lavan Island Oil Company (LAPCO) was established in which the National Iranian Oil Company had 50 shares and the four oil companies had 12.5 shares each. These four oil companies have made claims of not collecting profits from 1979 to 1998, that is, after 1357 [21 Mar 1978-20 Mar 1979], which are registered in the first branch under the numbers 20, 21, 22, and 23.

Cases number 22 and 23, concerning the Murphy and Union Companies, were settled in 1986[1] and each company was paid $36.5 million, a total of $73 million. But, according to reports that have been broadcast on a very limited scale in the media, the Ministry of Petroleum has signed an agreement with the other companies, that is, cases 20 and 21 concerning ARCO and SUN, according to which each company is to receive $130.5 million, that is, a total of $291 million. Considering that each of the company shares was equal, that is, 12.5 percent, this great difference in the amount of settlement does not seem justifiable.

Even if we suppose that the last two companies, because of a delay of six years in the settlement, deserve the payment of interest since 1986, the maximum figure to be paid to each cannot be more than twice $36 million, which still is not comparable to the figure which the Ministry of Petroleum has agreed to pay.[2] In any case, Branch One of the Iran-U.S. Arbitration Court will hold a session on Wednesday, 28 October 1992, in order to verify this settlement. Following this session, this figure will be paid out of the foreign currency account of our country. Since, according to Article 139 of the Constitution, the settlement of claims concerning the public and government property must be approved by the Majles in cases when one side of the dispute is a foreigner, I report the request that, as soon as possible before this decision is made by the Arbitration Court, the director of the international litigation services and the minister of petroleum be asked to provide an explanation in order for the honorable deputies who are, according to the Constitution, the protectors of the people's rights and the treasury, to carry out their legal duty.

Footnotes

1. Reports of the Iran-U.S. Arbitration Court, Vol. 13, p. 370, published in English by (Grasius) Publishers.

2. Reports of the Iran-U.S. Arbitration Court, Vol. 13, p. 370, published in English by (Grasius) Publishers.

* 27 Oct

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday in open session and the deputies from Urmia, Karaj, Abadan, and Taba gave speeches. Then the Majles went into its agenda and continued its consideration of the bill to amend the laws and regulations of the Standards Institute. The supplementary article was approved. Likewise, at yesterday's session the deputies approved the Law Designating an Acting Chief of the Urban Islamic Council, returned from the Council of Guardians, with amendments to Paragraph 5 and Note 1 of Article 1. At the end of the session the report from the minister of economic and financial affairs was presented to the Majles. Printed below for our readers are the texts of the speeches, the legislation, and the report from the minister of economic and financial affairs.

Seyyedlotfollah Ja'fari, Deputy From Urmia

The managers of the government must open the way to constructive criticism and strengthen the voices of those who tell the truth.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Seyyedlotfollah Ja'fari, deputy from Urmia. During his talk he thanked the people from his electoral district for reelecting him to the Fourth Majles. He said: Now that world imperialism has resolved to destroy Islam with its murderous new world order, and has given the filthy Serbs a free hand to commit genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina, our most pressing obligation is to unite around the principle that there is no God but God, visible proof of which is adherence to the just vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult.

The only leader who defends the human oppression in Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Jammu, Kashmir, Iraq and Algeria is the crusading leader His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. Yes, oh brave leader, humble seyyed [used as a title before a name—indicates descendant of the prophet] who has closed the wide gap between the people and those governing, at night you go among the people, you sympathize with them and listen to their troubles. Oh warrior, oh supporter of the indigenous, we are with you and we are loyal to the messages of the Imam.

He said: We the nation realize that if we are not under the rightful vice-regency of a single hand, discord and division will destroy us. We see clearly that with the plots of imperialism, Afghans have been killed and bloodied by Afghans, Arabs by Arabs and Kurds by Kurds. Yes, if the Muslim brothers are not united, all the sons of Adam are sure to go the way of Cain and Abel.

He called upon the government to reduce unnecessary expenditures and to study the reasons for the stagnation in the first Five-Year Plan, and to eliminate duplicate organizations. He said: The responsibilities of the government include approving and implementing bills for social and public security and employment insurance and to establish equilibrium between revenues and the excessive growth in inflation according to the criteria set in the second Five-Year Plan, because it is not right that the vulnerable classes are subjected to intolerable pressures caused by economic adjustment and are speaking out openly against officials. The goals of the plan must be explained and implemented to the extent of the primary needs of the people.

He likewise characterized emphasis on specialization combined with commitment and piety as the basis of revolution and constructive activity. He noted: Of course emphasizing production must not make the government unmindful of controlling prices, because just distribution and fair consumption will put national production in order. Just as the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution has said and emphasized repeatedly, the continuous struggle against infidels must always have special priority, and it is appropriate that this struggle begin with the officials themselves.

The people make their models first of those who hold power. For example, it is seen that the child of some public personality has become a man infatuated with Western manifestations, and by showing himself in the streets in automobiles costing millions, he infuriates a generation of people who often cannot buy a one-way ticket to the university or to school. Isn't this itself the reason for the creation of problems and deviation? When the people see that bribery, underworking, and putting relationships ahead of regulations are taking place openly in the offices, can they be confident that the body of society will be reformed?

Ja'fari explained: Those running the government should themselves be living examples of good behavior and of abandoning evil behavior. They should pave the way to constructive criticism and strengthen those seeking to speak the truth. The position of the Majles must be respected. If the executive and judicial officials have criticisms of those chosen by the people, certainly all the constructive criticism and proposals will be presented in the Majles.

We support the government and defend the judiciary, but sometimes when the interests of the nation are at variance with the views of the government and the respected judges, we have the legal responsibility to declare our opposition.

Just as the respected president of the republic said, if we do not act in accordance with the desires of the leader and the people, the revolution will be dealing with liberals, and he added that support for Mr. Hashemi does not mean that we must consider ourselves the government's proxies. In this case the Majles has no meaning and the leadership, the nation, and even the government itself do not accept this. It has been much?

Because of enjoining not to commit what is unlawful or wicked, they have become the object of the officials disfavor and rejection.

He emphasized the fact that the Hezbollah is hoping that the Fourth Majles and its speaker will eliminate deviation, special favors, and liberalism from the government. He said: Unfortunately this hope has not yet been realized. When the research and investigation agents of the Majles are ignored by the Ministry of the Interior's agents in some province and then the minister of the interior evades questions in his dealings with the awakened spirit in the Majles in the house of the nation, how can we expect the law, the Majles, and the government to be respected in the streets and marketplaces? Definitely the only way to save the nation from corruption forever is to focus on the law and its equal implementation for everyone.

He then discussed fuel problems. He said: This year, despite the order from the minister of petroleum to store fuel materials, there are shortages in Urmia and fuel distribution is still done through ration coupons.

The people are asking, why after all these years since the establishment of the sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is there still the problem of insecurity in Urmia?

Continuing his talk, Ja'fari thanked the minister of agriculture for coming to the municipality of Urmia with regard to the workers and staff employees in his electoral district. He said: The hardest working individuals are the workers and staff employees with high-school diplomas and with educations below the high-school diploma, most of whom work much and earn little. It is therefore requested of the respected Expediency Discernment Council that it act as soon as possible with regard to the eliminated groups drawn from this oppressed class and do what is needed to encourage them.

Continuing, the deputy from Urmia asked that the balance of teacher back wages be paid, and that the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education deal with their situation so that the problem that has risen with regard to the nation's nursing colleges, including the one in Urmia, be dealt with and ended.

He also called on province officials to cooperate in freeing the hands of producers of agricultural crops and in dealing with the problem of the administrative housing cooperatives.

In conclusion he offered condolences on the death of former Majles deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam Sahab ol-Zamani.

'Abbas'ali Zali, Deputy From Karaj

A careful study must be made of the effects of applying a single foreign exchange rate from the point of view of the changes likely to come upon the prices of goods, services and wages, the public's purchasing power, the situation in the producing units, and public employment.

Zali, from the Karaj electoral district, was the second pre-agenda speaker. During his talk he said: In view of the special circumstances prevailing in the world and the rebellion of the enemies of Islam and humanity, and especially America's eternal enmity against the Islamic revolution, it is necessary in all kinds of political and cultural relations and in cooperation with other nations that we rely on the commands of the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, meaning reliance on the three principles and the foundation of the glory of the nation and the unity of policies, and that we make use of existing resources and make use of all the nation's committed and concerned capabilities.

He added: Since the people are considered the greatest supporters of the revolution, it expected that planners, officials, and government servants will be mindful of the condition of religious people, mobilization members, those who served at the fronts and society's low-income classes in all economic activities, and in current circumstances when the policies of economic adjustment have brought about problems for the common people, and that they will think of ways to support society's vulnerable classes. It is necessary to strengthen public confidence by respecting the views of the people and avoiding hasty decisions and dealing with issues on the basis of personal taste, which sometimes can weaken confidence in policymakers. We must devise ways to use the ability and experience of committed and concerned forces and to permit participation by the common people in developing activity and investment in rebuilding the country.

He noted that the nation's economic reconstruction clearly needs national resolve. He said: It is necessary, by making use of all of the nation's expert capabilities in planning and creating political unity, to study all the executive, economic, social, political and cultural aspects, and any shortcomings must be eliminated as programs and policies are being implemented by studying the views of the public and the experts. Clearly, by earning confidence through carrying out expert work, carrying out plans and implementing policies, we can enjoy public support, and especially full support for the Majles, the government and all the nation's political and devotional officials. Only under these circumstances will differing points of view not confuse the public, and only then will those interested in activity and investment in various production and service affairs be able to carry out their role, and then the aware and combative people of our nation will accept any kind of hardship and shortage in the implementation of programs to rebuild and make prosperous the nation's economy.

Since the respected government has placed on its agenda the compilation of the second Five-Year Plan and the 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] Budget, in this regard I will note the following points:

1. In view of the inevitability of changes in the foreign exchange rate and the necessity of moving in the direction of a single foreign exchange rate, this policy has been selected by the respected government in writing the

second Five-Year Plan and has also been announced for the economic adjustment in writing the 1372 Budget. Since the implementation of this policy could have side effects on the public's buying power and could produce price changes, serious steps must be taken through careful study and consultation with all the concerned and committed experts to reduce the vulnerability of the low-income classes, and before this policy is implemented, or at least at the same time the decision is taken in this regard, practical ways to implement these kinds of support must be specified.

He added: It is especially necessary that a careful study be made of the effects of applying a single foreign exchange rate from the point of view of the changes likely to come upon the prices of goods, services and wages, the public's purchasing power, the situation in the producing units, public employment, the amount of currency in circulation, and the process of investment and public activity in various production sectors. Serious thought must be given to ways to minimize losses and to adjust its temporary effects on the lives and livelihoods of the low-income classes, and to preserve and strengthen the confidence and faith of the public as the revolution's most important capital.

2. To compile the second Five-Year Plan it is necessary that a study be made of the weak points and the strong points, the social, economic, political and cultural effects produced by implementing programs and policies, the executive problems, the reasons for delays in the implementation of some projects, and the failure to complete parts of the Five-Year Plan, such as the failure to make social security generally available or to aim subsidies at specific areas.

The deputy from Karaj then discussed the inappropriate nature of the administrative structure and the excessive spread of many organizations and the various organizations. He said: It is necessary, by consolidating the ministries, turning many tasks over to the people and by thinking of ways to solve the problems of government workers, to increase the work done in these organizations and to decrease current costs.

He said: In view of the age mix of the nation's society, of which 56 percent is people under age 19, and also in view of the possibility of society's culture being affected by the cultural invasion of foreigners, it is necessary in the second Five-Year Plan that a special place be given to cultural issues.

Zaki discussed the fact that if a single rate is applied to foreign exchange, research must be done on how to improve the quality of production. He emphasized that the share of research must be increased until it is a significant portion of national revenues. Concerning social security, he said: In view of the failure to make social security generally available and to spread health insurance under the first Five-Year Plan, and in view of the vulnerability of the low-income classes of society, it is necessary in the first years of the second Five-Year Plan to make it possible to bring this about, because the vulnerability of the low-income classes will be reduced in the face of the economic changes by targeting subsidy payments, but unfortunately this was not achieved in the first Five-Year Plan.

He continued: In view of the fact that a full year has passed since the study and approval of the Bill on Supervision Procedures for Reducing Unnecessary Expenses and Preventing Ostentation, and in view of the existing limitations, it is necessary, while studying conditions in the various organizations with regard to how public funds are spent in various instances such as the unauthorized use of transportation implements, printing congratulations and condolences, time waste, ostentation, and the excessive growth of administrative organizations in many offices and organizations be prevented.

Zaki then discussed his own electoral district. He said: Karaj is the fourth-or fifth-largest city in the country, and especially in the years since the triumph of the Islamic revolution, it has had the largest population growth. Most of the municipality's residents are emigrants, they have emigrated because of the continuing problems in the agricultural sector, and it is necessary that ways be found to meet their needs where they are living now.

Ways must be found to procure the drinking and agricultural water needed by the municipality now and in the future, to get serious and rapid action by the Tehran and Homeh Vahed Bus Company to reduce intercity transportation problems, to expedite solutions to the problems pertaining to national division, especially with regard to the problems in Kermanshad, Mohammadshad and Meshkinshad and Kermdarreh, to grant special favor to alleviate severe shortages in health care, treatment and medical education, and special attention must be given to the matter of employment and cultural, recreational and sporting needs. These and other things are among the most important issues in the municipality of Karaj, which we hope will receive the attention of the governor general and the respected ministers.

'Abdol-Hosayn Moqaddo'i, Deputy From Abadan

The deputy from Abadan criticized the manner of petroleum for increasing the gas subscription rate, for weakening the financial foundation of the national petroleum company, for signing contracts with foreign companies, and for failing to increase the production of consumer gas in accordance with the Five-Year Plan.

Moqaddo'i, deputy from Abadan, was another of the speakers. With reference to the report from the minister of petroleum, he said:

The minister who gets a vote of confidence from the Majles is commended before the Majles and the people to conduct himself truthfully and in observance of his trusteeship. Unfortunately, however, in the report presented there is a lack of truthfulness and there are things that are contrary to reality and not in accordance with

the Five-Year Plan. I will give several examples: According to the Five-Year Plan, at the end of the final year of the plan the nation's crude petroleum production capacity should have reached 4.5 million barrels per day (meaning 4 million on land and 500,000 barrels on the continental shelf), and this figure is now about 3.8 million barrels per day, which shows the minister's lack of success in meeting the goals of the plan, and this despite the unprincipled extraction of some petroleum reserves, thereby causing irreparable losses to the reserves.

He said: In part of the report he discussed the injection of gas into the petroleum reserves, and with special shyness he ignored the injection of gas into the Karanj reserves. I must explain that according to the Five-Year Plan 270 million cubic feet of gas should have been injected daily into the Karanj reserves in order to prevent the crude petroleum from being wasted, and currently only one-ninth of that amount, or 30 million cubic feet of gas, is being injected. Thus, for every 100,000 barrels of petroleum, there are about 25,000 barrels per day, and if we look at the losses since the acceptance of the resolution on the basis that each barrel of petroleum is $15 and if we assume that daily extraction at Karanj is 200,000 barrels, more than $1 billion in losses has been taken by the petroleum reserves as the result of shortfalls, the failure to plan and bad management by the minister of petroleum, and ultimately this is a loss to the nation's revenues.

He then explained: In the area of importing petroleum byproducts for domestic consumption, under the Five-Year Plan the Majles authorized the Ministry of Petroleum to import 216,000 barrels per day, and in view of the Ministry of Petroleum's failure last year to deliver fuel to the people, the Majles raised the authorization to 279,000 barrels per day. In the latest report, the minister of petroleum asked to add another 50,000 barrels to the 279,000-barrel ceiling, meaning a deviation of about 50 percent from the Five-Year Plan has been planned, and yet the public's winter fuel problem, despite the fact that they have been registered with the ministry for the last eight years, remains as acute as ever.

Concerning the reconstruction of the refineries, and especially the Abadan refinery, it must be said that insofar as the matter appeals to him and had political status and positive implications, that is up to the point that the refineries went into operation, which took place thanks to the love and sacrifice of the Abadan refinery workers and their other colleagues, he considered the matter vital, but regarding matters required for its continuation, meaning the reconstruction of worn-out equipment and making them economical and rebuilding the organizational homes and their vital services, which did not have that much political and propaganda benefit, he chose not pursue it. Actually, if what he has done so far in the Ministry of Petroleum is what being a manager and a minister is, it must be said that a even a byproducts sales outlet chief could have done a better job.

The deputy from Abadan said: The minister, as the highest official in the ministry, has the responsibility of protecting and preserving the nation's interest in this ministry, but unfortunately things are done in the Ministry of Petroleum in such a way that all resources are mobilized so that the minister will remain the minister. Examples are the establishment of relations with the nation's centers of power and drifting away from the criteria of logic, specialization, and values in the selection of some individuals to hold office in the Ministry of Petroleum. In reality these things converted this ministry into a corporation, some of which was controlled by those affiliated with Mr. Minister and the rest of which was controlled by people who are in some way affiliated with the centers of power.

In conclusion he said: The problems created such as increasing the gas subscription charge, signing contracts with foreign front companies in the drilling sector, the weakening of the financial foundation of the national petroleum company, the failure to increase consumer gas production in accordance with the plan and to transfer technology in the petrochemical industries sector, are all important areas to which the Majles and the relevant specialist commissions must pay special attention.

Ahmad Taha, Deputy From Bukan

The final pre-agenda speaker was Ahmad Taha, deputy from Bukan. During his talk he said: The oppression of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina is a bitter historical experience and a difficult, heavy, and critical lesson for the Muslims of the world.

On the one hand the support and comprehensive protection of all the Muslims of the world, as a religious and Islamic duty, demands the participation and aid of all true human beings as a religious, human and social responsibility, and it requires that the aggressor be engaged in struggle with fortitude and ability and with all the intensity of unity.

Why should the Muslims of the world, with populations statistics of at least 1 billion persons and with the most water, agricultural, mining, forest, pasture, farming and other God-given resources, find themselves primarily in a defensive position towards enemies and imperialism?

He added: Power and glory depend on two things, both of which must be held in one hand, and on one hand the pen, which is the symbol of knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

He then explained: Where is the clanging of the swords of 1 billion Muslims in the world? Where is the firmness and bravery of 1 billion Muslims?

Where is the concept that believers are brothers among the Muslims of the world?

Where is the idea "cling to the lifeline of God together and you will not be dispersed"? [quoting the Koran]

Bosnia-Hercegovina is the battlefield of the war between the Truth and the False. It is the testing ground for good and evil.

Even now in Bosnia-Hercegovina mothers, sisters, brothers, fathers, wives and daughters and the glory and honor of Muslims are in danger and they are being violated. Hasn't the time come for the powers of the Muslims to order an uprising and to command an ongoing and practical crusade?

Even now Bosnia-Hercegovina is the testing ground for good things and bad things. It is time to implement Islamic programs and at the same time to punish the Serbs. It is time to declare that "Islam prevails and no one prevails against it," for Islam is superior and there is nothing superior to it.

If, God forbid, we are defeated by the Serbian enemy in Bosnia-Hercegovina with its lead heart because of lack of unity and agreement among Muslims, and if the heart of Bosnia-Hercegovina becomes cold and sad, then all of us are responsible, all Muslims, all free and worthy human beings and all noble and brave human beings.

Legislation

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the bill to amend the laws and regulations pertaining to the Iran Institute of Standards and Industrial Research, and with the approval of a supplementary article, consideration of the bill was completed.

Supplementary Article: The Institute's nonpersonnel budgets obtained through government assistance and specialized revenues will be spent based on the general regulations and rules of the National Budget Law.

The second item on the agenda was the Law Designating an Acting Chief of the Urban Islamic Council (returned from the Council of Guardians), and an amendment added to it to gain the approval of the Council of Guardians was approved by the deputies.

The amendment to Paragraph 5 and Note 1 of Article 1 was amended as follows:

Paragraph 5. Seven reputable people of the city

Note 1. To confirm the competence of the reputable people of the city mentioned in Paragraph 5, a five-person council will be formed composed of three members of the National Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission and two members of the Principle 90 Commission, chosen by the Majles. The reputable people of each city will be appointed in the Majles on the recommendation of the deputy or a majority of the deputies of that city and will be approved by a majority of the members of the aforementioned council. The dismissal of the aforementioned reputable people will also be done by a majority of the members of this council.

The final item on the agenda was the motion to determine the service status of the protectors of the deputies to the Majles (returned from the Council of Guardians).

Article 1:

In the event that people such as this serve or should come to serve government organizations and the aforementioned forces, the time of their service throughout their period of guarding the relevant deputies will include the payment of insurance premiums and the deduction of worker retirement contributions paid by them, and employer retirement contributions paid by the Majles (in the event that they have not been paid), and in every respect will be included in their service. This period of time will be added to the maximum years for official or fixed service in the government organizations or in the aforementioned forces.

Note 2: The Majles is required to included the financial cost of this law in its 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] budget.

Deputy Motions to Nation's Executive Officials

Emami, deputy from Kuhdasht and Chekini to the minister of agriculture pertaining to the timely distribution of chemical fertilizer to farmers in the Chekin district.

Hemmati, deputy from Meshkinshahr, to the minister of agriculture concerning the procurement of the chemical fertilizer needed by the region's farmers.

Mr. Habibi, deputy from Khaf and Rashtkhar, to the minister of petroleum concerning the procurement of fuel for the region and dealing with the record of the sellers of fuel, and to the minister of the reconstruction crusade concerning the implementation of the electrical service project in the forest and rural parts of the Khaf area.

A number of Tehran Province deputies to the president of the republic concerning the designation of prices and preventing their increase, and requiring mandatory price stickers.

Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Report to Majles

At the beginning of his report given during a talk, the minister of economic and financial affairs said: When we talk about overall economic policies, we are faced with two groups of differing policies, or in other words we are faced with two aspects of policy, and our policy directions go into both of these two groups: 1) The part of policy aimed at the totality of activities such as investment and production. 2) The other policy direction is aimed at distribution and consumption. When we study our nation's overall economic policies, we must see where these policies are aimed. Are they aimed at production and investment, or at distribution and consumption? If they are weighted more heavily towards one of these directions for some reason, what is the

reason? Why, assuming we have chosen investment and production, have our policies been aimed in this direction, compared to the importance that policies pertaining to distribution and consumption probably have?

He then added: Naturally the totality of activity in the second sector (distribution and consumption) is 100 percent dependent on what we do in the first sector. That is, if there is no investment and production in an economy, no added value will be created.

The minister of economic and financial affairs added: The thing that drives an economy and what puts an economy into motion and converts the natural resources of a nation to material value is whatever we have done in our investment and production sector. We have created an atmosphere in which investment and production activity can take place.

Dr. Nurbakhsh explained the point that what we see on the market of goods, money and foreign exchange is in reality this lack of equilibrium arising from the lack of total equilibrium between total supply and total demand. He said: If instead of trying to eliminate the lack of total equilibrium between total supply and total demand you were to try to eliminate the two-tiered price structure, for example, in the policies of the foreign exchange and monetary sector, in my view these things would not disappear at all unless we were able to eliminate the basic problems with supply and demand. When that problem disappeared, we would be able to be confident that the two different sectors in the situation will come into balance.

Since the beginning of the year 1368 [21 Mar 1989], which was the beginning of the first Five-Year Plan, the government began its activities with a group of economic policies that were written into the book of the Five-Year Plan. Of course these policies, which were adopted in the year 1368, were completely different from those that the government had adopted before the year 1368 and especially during the era of the imposed war and the sacred defense. The difference between these two sets of policies is a natural thing, if one evaluates the two different groups of policies adopted at the beginning of the year 1368 at the time of the end of the imposed war, along with what was contained in the totality of policies before the year 1368 in view of the special circumstances we faced.

In this regard he also said: The same policy and direction that the government established under wartime conditions had a series of consequences, which we must accept as destructive consequences, rather than as good work and acceptable results. That is, if the government is forced to intervene more in some activities, if the government is forced to create new organizations to supervise some affairs, and if because of these new organizations the government's activities also become more extensive, and if government expenditures increase following the expanded activities of the government, we must not view that as a valuable thing.

He added: If we achieve a balanced budget and a zero-budget deficit, and that has been written into the 1372 budget, and if that can be achieved, this will not necessarily mean that the government will be responsible for the increase in currency in circulation and inflation, and if we are worried about that, we must consider what we did about cutting back government expenses and how successful we were. Did government expenses go down? Specifically, we can comfortably make decisions in two areas and reduce government expenditures.

1. Concerning the transfer of economic activities to the private sector, the idea is that the purpose of the government is not really to carry out economic activities. When the people are involved, they will carry out those activities. 2. Concerning the duties in the government organizations, they are similar duties.

Nurbakhsh discussed the government's record in the area of financial policy. He said: The 30 percent of total revenues taken up by taxes in the year 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991] should have gone up to 39 percent by the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 Mar 1992] and should have reached about 45 percent by the first six months of the year 1371 [21 Mar-22 Sep 1992], which in reality would show a sound mixture of government revenues, meaning that we are moving in a direction where we meet our expenses through tax revenues, and this will be a useful move. Concerning the amount of taxes collected, fortunately I can say with courage that in the last three years we have been about in accordance with the budget, and in some cases, in view of the adjustments that have been made to the economy, we have even gone beyond the figures in the budget. In the year 1369, out of 1.712 billion rials in projected tax revenues set by the Majles, 1.995 billion rials was collected, and this figure is 99 percent [as published]. In the year 1370, compared to the 2.3 billion rials set forth in the budget, about 2.765 billion was collected, which is higher than the approved figure. In the first six months of the year 1371, there was about 1.815 billion rials in revenues, and we expect to collect the amount that was designated in the budget. The annual growth in taxes collected for the last three years was about 20 percent for 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990], 43 percent for 1369 and about 63 percent for 1370, and at the rate set so far in the first six months of the year 1371 the figure will be higher than 40 percent. In this way we hope to achieve one of the goals set out in the Five-Year Plan.

Continuing his remarks, the minister of economic and financial affairs discussed monetary policy. He said: The problem we had in the banking and monetary policy sector at the beginning of the year 1368 was that in view of the rate of inflation and in view of the profits the banks paid to depositors, the situation was not encouraging for depositors. On the other hand, in view of the projects that the banks provided for with the expected profit rate, which was a low rate, and on the other hand the resources that actually came to the banks, demand for bank facilities was high.

We tried to direct bank activity in such a direction that it would be more profitable in terms of the choice of projects, thereby enabling us to pay more profits to depositors, so that the figure for the growth of deposits in the banking system would be acceptable. Fortunately the results we obtained in doing this were acceptable.

He cited statistics on private sector bank deposits as of the end of the month of Mordad [23 Aug]. He said: Private sector bank deposits have exceeded 27,000 billion rials, and if we look at the deposit growth rate in the period between Mordad 1371 [23 Jul-22 Aug 1992] and Mordad 1370 [23 Jul-22 Aug 1991], it was some 28 percent, while the growth in deposits in the same period the previous year (Mordad 1370 to Mordad 1369 [23 Jul-22 Aug 1990]) was about 23 percent. In other words, deposits going into the banking system were some 5 percent higher than they were the previous year.

Dr. Nurbakhsh added: Concerning the facilities that the banks have given, since there is a lot of propaganda that the banks have frozen their monetary services and do not grant them and that there are too many problems, I must say that in Mordad 1371, the figure for bank facilities granted reached 19,369 billion. If we compare Mordad 1371 with Mordad 1370, the bank facilities have grown by some 40 percent, while in the previous period, meaning between Mordad 1369 and Mordad 1370, their growth was something around 30 percent. In other words, while bank deposits grew more than 5 percent compared to the previous period, the facilities the banks granted to applicants grew more than 10 percent compared to the previous year. Therefore the claims being made that the banks are not granting facilities are not based on the numbers and figures.

Likewise about 83 percent of the facilities at the end of the year 1370 had been given in the industrial, agricultural, and construction sectors. In other words, most of the financial facilities that the banks granted were in areas of economic activity, while only 17 percent went to other sectors, which include interest-free loans, commercial and miscellaneous. We have gone in the direction of having the bank facilities used in the proper places and at the same time we have positive growth.

The minister of economic and financial affairs discussed foreign exchange. He said: It is natural that the two-tiered price structure of goods in the marketplace is also evident on the foreign exchange market. The difference in rates was less in the first few years, and gradually as there were increases in the overall economic indicators, which show the volume of currency in circulation, this difference between the rates also increased. If we accept this difference in foreign exchange rates, what will be the result for us? If we go in the direction of a balanced rate, what effects will that have? Currently, when in reality the foreign exchange rate differs at a ratio of 1/20, it will be natural that whoever can get foreign exchange at the official rate will actually earn a profit 20 times what he paid. Thus everyone will be seeking to obtain foreign exchange.

On the other hand if someone comes and takes that dollar he obtains and sells it to the bank, where he can get a price 20 times what he paid, while we would give him 1/20th of what can be gotten outside the bank, naturally we have created a force that will take dollars out of the hands of the government and make everyone apply for dollars, and on the other hand no one will be bringing dollars to the government. The result will be that the nation will have a negative balance of payments. If this continues, the result will be that we will always be worried about investments and distribution activities, and whether or not what is being invested is really being put to work in its proper place, or is merely a case of a seven-tomans dollar being used. Therefore, since the beginning of the year 1368 [21 Mar 1989], we brought into the economy this multiple-rate foreign exchange system where the rate was once 7 tomans. Initially these multiple rates were much greater, and they gradually decreased in number.

We then reached the conclusion about what we would do in the year 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994]. Of course this must be discussed in the Majles, and it is the respected deputies who must evaluate this well. If they decide that there should be a single foreign exchange rate, we must provide for a single foreign exchange rate, and if they decide to continue in this same direction, we will decide in favor of a multiple-rate system. If, God willing, we succeed in moving towards a single foreign exchange rate, the results of this will be presented and the consumption of foreign exchange will be less. When the foreign exchange rate also exists on the free market, it is natural that our imports will be more natural. The investments that will be made will be made for the sake of production. I am not confident now that the investments we are making are for the sake of creating revenues from the difference in foreign exchange rates or because of a positive assessment of what will come out of these investments. When this dual foreign exchange rate disappears, every investment that is made will be purely related to that investment's positive return, and not for anything else.

He added: If we go in the direction of a single foreign exchange rate, the period of time when the nation's resources will be immobile will be reduced. Our producers and distributors are now seeking to have reserves.

Concerning commercial policies, Dr. Nurbakhsh said: Some of the deputies are quite sensitive about this matter. Look, we are in the middle of two situations. On the one side we might say let us completely cut off our domestic relations with the outside, except in cases where the government wants to allow it and try to support production and control the consumer behavior of the consumer. We must consider another issue, which is that if we cut of the relationship between the import and export of goods, in reality our producer will have an open field to operate in which the consumer will be condemned to use his products no matter what the quality. Will he have a motivation in the field of competition to improve the quality of his products? We'll be

try to obtain new technology? Don't you think that if we move towards supporting our producers, and if we close that door or open it without calculating the cost, closing it will mean that the consumer who needs it on the other hand will be forced to consume whatever the producer produces. The producer therefore will not have any motivation to try to improve the quality of his work. On the other hand, if you really think that we will be able to control the producer with the behavior of the consumer, we have condemned the producer to have the producer dictate the quality under all circumstances, and to accept the price and the quality. What we think is a proper basis is a tool such as customs tariffs or commercial profits tax.

Mr. Nurbakhsh noted: We are studying a proposal right now in the government's economic commission under which commercial profits taxes and customs tariffs will be placed where they will have economic meaning, and perhaps within two more weeks the results of that will be announced. In this regard we want to pursue three objectives: 1—To implement reasonable support for the producer. 2—Support for the consumer, in the sense that the commercial profits tax and the customs tariffs will be put in a place where the consumer and producer will know that if he wants to raise his prices, he will be competing with foreign production, and therefore in this way we will be able to support the interest of the consumer. 3—A suitable revenue also from customs levies and taxes will be given to the government. We hope that with the new customs tariffs, we will be able to guide our commercial policies in this direction (towards reaching the three objectives), and that we will be able to bring domestic and foreign production into equilibrium.

Dr. Nurbakhsh added: I will present you deputies with statistics so that you will see why the government and the Five-Year Plan have rightly established the policy of encouraging investment and production.

If we look at prices indexed to the year 1361 [21 Mar 1982 - 20 Mar 1983] and at the value of our gross national product in the year 1355 [21 Mar 1976 - 20 Mar 1977], the figure is about 11,535 billion rials. That year our population was something like 35 million. In the year 1367 the value of our gross national product reached 9,468 billion rials, that is it increased by some 2,000 billion rials. The population of 35 million of 1355 had exceeded 50 million in the year 1367.

Notice that this production is the result of investment. That is, investment must take place. In the year 1355 about 4,300 billion rials was invested, and in 1367 this figure dropped to 1,143 billion, or about half. Therefore notice that we had fewer production resources and with one-third the investment in the year 1367, and it is in view of these conditions that the investment and production sectors have been made a priority and a goal. If we can act in this area, we will be able to control the lack of equilibrium.

The minister of economic and financial affairs added: If we look at gross national product for the year 1370 [21 Mar 1991 - 20 Mar 1992], which is 47,000 billion rials, if 30 percent of that is to be invested, some 11,400 billion rials must create machinery and buildings. Let us assume that the private sector takes on 7 percent of this figure, and the government 40 percent [as published]. If we want to say that the government should take on all of it, the government's capability is not really at a level where it could carry it out. If the private sector were to take on 60 percent of this amount, that is if it invested about 8,000 billion rials, that is every day some 25 to 30 billion rials would have to be invested, my question is, have we created an atmosphere for such investment or not? If we have not created it, then who wants to make these investments, the government or the private sector? It is therefore for this reason that we are carrying out the task of "turning over economic activity to the people and the private sector" in such a way that 8,000 billion rials investment must be made by the people.

In conclusion, Dr. Nurbakhsh noted: My request is that if this is discussed in the newspapers, and if this is discussed in the Majles and if it is about the atmosphere that we have created, look at how much it is aimed at the overall economic policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, so that investment and production can take place. Notice that if we do something so that this investment will not take place and if the goal is to make the distribution and consumption sectors grow, we must not think that support we give to this sector will produce anything, because no production will have taken place for us to think of distributing.

Again I ask, in your discussions and in the articles that are written in the newspapers, take note to what extent this answers to this national need.

* 28 Oct

93ES0169A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Oct 92 pp 5, 12

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Alavi and Hojjat ol-Eslam Baghani, deputies from Gorgan and Tehran, by RESALAT on 28 Oct in Tehran]

[Text] The Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Rohani presiding. In this session the deputies of Kermanshah, Izeh, Masjed Soleyman, and Ahvaz spoke. Then the Majles went into session, and later the deputy from Avej and Ba'ive Zahra asked questions of the minister of commerce. We call to your attention the detailed Majles report.

Akhtar Derakhshandeh, Deputy From Kermanshah

The people's countless daily problems, on the one hand, and the interference of many city hall regulations, on the other, cause red tape, work slow downs, and many problems and shortcomings for the people.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Ms. Akhtar Derakhshandeh, the deputy from Kermanshah. Offering her congratulations on the birthday of her holiness Zeynab and 13 Aban (4 Nov), the anniversary of the capture of the spy nest, she said: Considering the statements of the grand leader of the revolution on the instruction to do good and prevent evil, our duty is to be alert and fight social corruption at the highest possible level for the Islamic world. We must not neglect the Muslims of the world. For example, the policies of the Western world with regard to the massacre of the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina indicate that they intend to eliminate the Muslims totally in that region and prevent the establishment of a Muslim country. This shows the fear of Islam and Muslims on the part of the West and the world of heathenism. As has been stated in the Koran, the earth belongs to the oppressed.

Derakhshandeh then thanked the noble people of Kermanshah for their presence in the Fourth Majles elections and said: Our women, with their free and alert presence in the elections, struck a heavy blow to the opponents of Islam and made the world understand that an Iranian Muslim woman freely makes decisions about the future of her country and can as a member of the society be the protector and guardian of her own values and those of her society. By using the strong points of her Islamic culture, she can turn the hopes of the oppressors to attack the authentic Islamic culture into despair. She pointed out: The creation of a proper grounds for the growth of the true personality of women; the creation of culture and the elimination of bothersome and ignorant traditions; the presence of women in the revolution; the role of women in protecting the principles of the revolution and the perpetuation and development of that role in the sacred defense and reconstruction; the role of women in social and familial responsibilities; the role of women in the growth of the seminaries and the universities; the competence of women; the defense of the sanctuary of religious guardianship and the responsibility of women towards it; the role of women in the education and raising of children, who are the future builders of the society; and the revivalization of the material and spiritual rights of women in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been proven. According to our late Imam, it is from the lap of women that the man goes to heaven. Now, I call to the attention of the honorable president and the honorable Cabinet the following.

1. In my opinion, the root of all the problems is not in machines and the government structure. We now are facing the destructive flood of a population increase. Since our society requires much cultural work to perfect itself in its newfound culture, this unexpected increase has caused a rapid increase in inequities among the people.

Improper distribution of resources has caused general discontent and conflict among all the weak administrative masses. These weak, discontent administrative masses are mostly disgruntled because they have not benefitted from the resources. The reflection of these conflicts appears in the form of slowdowns in work, bribery, misuse, the confusion of innocent people and clients, the lack of identity, and disruption of the administrative system. Before dealing with destructive and impious groups through an authentic cultural action that will have long-term results, the government must mobilize all its resources to obtain a zero population growth rate in order to be able to engage in cultural work in peace.

The deputy from Kermanshah, in continuation, emphasized finding a solution to the problem of high prices and also the necessity to ratify comprehensive and constructive laws to solve the problems of the self-sacrificers and said: Efforts to solve the problems of health care, housing, the payment of loans, and the implementation of a coordinated system of payments are among the issues to which attention must be paid. Also, considering that it is not dignified for the regime of the Islamic Republic to have the military personnel of this land, after years of guarding and hard work, when they retire, to rush to accept jobs that are not worthy of a soldier, I point out that the salaries of the military personnel, especially the retired military, are insufficient to cover their heavy living expenses. Hence, providing salaries, housing, payment of loans, and other welfare benefits for this group of self-sacrificers is a sensitive and necessary issue.

She said: The people's countless daily problems, on the one hand, and the interference of many regulations, on the other, have caused problems for the people. Hence, devising and ratifying comprehensive and constructive laws regarding city halls are necessary to eliminate the problems and shortcomings of the people.

In conclusion, Ms. Derakhshandeh asked that serious attention be paid by the officials to the issues of health, welfare, the price of medicine and medical equipment, high hospital costs, the situation of agriculture, providing needed foreign currency, the elimination of poverty, building railroads, and providing educational resources for the Kermanshah region.

Yavar Sabbhi, Deputy From Izeh

Sabbhi, the deputy from Izeh, was the second pre-agenda speaker. He said: Some time ago, we all took an oath on the most sacred, divine book to protect and defend the values of the Islamic revolution. Under such circumstances, what are the duties of the Fourth Majles? What issues must it address? What really are the most urgent issues in the country? About six months have passed since the Fourth Majles was established. What are the causes of such high prices in the country? The people live in suffering and torment. When should we contemplate solutions to this calamity? What are the causes of high prices? Why in Tehran do we see the prices of the same

items doubled? Why is there such pressure on the vulnerable classes? Would the Majles deputies, ministers, or deputy ministers have tolerated the pressure if it were on them?

He added: The revenues of most families after the deduction of housing costs is less than 3,000 tomans. Dear colleagues, we must think of a solution as quickly as possible.

Referring to the issue of strengthening administration by combining national issues, he said: Relations between the ministries must be strengthened. For example, in the national transportation system, every day hundreds of heavy vehicles carry one or several items from one province to another, and hundreds of other vehicles carry the same items from the other province to the first. How much damage does this inflict on the country? How many schools and hospitals could be built with this money?

The deputy from Izeh emphasized the creation of a precise inspection and evaluation system in the country and said: In all the advanced countries in the world, this is the case. But, unfortunately, at the present there is no difference between a successful and serving administrator and a conserving, rich boss. Some of the ministries are truly uninformed about the issues under their jurisdiction. It is unlikely that they are aware. Some of the heavy damages in the country are created in this way.

Sabihi referred to foreign purchases and the theft that goes on in the name of a percentage and pointed out:

I say to all the dear deputies of the Majles that if a sound, direct judicial organization is placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Information, and this ministry becomes a stronger agency under the direct supervision of the grand leader, you shall certainly see a significant reduction in embezzlement and bribery.

God willing, the deputies of the Majles will spend some of their time studying the informational organizations of the countries of the world and their role in improving the political, executive, and even judicial systems in those countries, and see what a significant role they play. Now, in our country, few people are afraid of bribery and embezzlement, especially when they have connections.

He then pointed out: Our complaint is, why is an inordinate amount of attention paid to one province and little to others? Do we not have a Five-Year Plan? Is there some justification for such action, or is something wrong with the plan or those who are supposed to carry it out? I would like you to know that in my constituency alone there are about 400 villages without drinking water. Our Construction Jihad is incapable of providing tires for the water trucks. And then they spend huge amounts on the Olympic Village. Truly, the oppressed areas have their hopes set on the leader. By canceling four unjustifiable foreign trips by some ministries, water can be provided for many of the villages. Of course, the significant and sincere services of the beloved president must not be disregarded. Our expectations of a revolutionary government are something more. In conclusion, he thanked the minister of health for visiting the oppressed region of Khuzestan.

Naser Sobrabi, Deputy From Masjed Soleyman

Naser Sobrabi, from Masjed Soleyman, was another pro-agenda speaker, who referred to the statements of Imam Khomeyni concerning the value of human beings in the Islamic government and said: In the Islamic government, more value is put on the person who is pious than the one who is wealthy and has property and power. All the directors and officials of the regime and the government of justice are obliged to hold more meetings with the poor, the needy, and the barefoot than with the well-to-do. Being close to the needy and placing oneself in their place is a great honor that the holy men have enjoyed and that in practice puts an end to the interpretations and doubts of the deviants. In the Islamic Republic, the basis for this idea and point of view is being implemented.

He added: Consider this historical message as a pillar of the Islamic government, the best model to prevent any sort of love of luxury, and the best aid to cleanse oneself.

But, unfortunately, in some of the ministries, there are those who disregard this historical message and, in order to get bribes, welcome well-to-do, keeping the oppressed in long lines, promising them today or tomorrow, and keeping them behind closed doors.

As a result, the oppressed people can do nothing but go to the deputies. I am sure that the revered colleagues, considering the large number of people coming to the Majles, have realized this problem very well. On the other hand, among the people who come there are often brave young men who up to yesterday, during the eight years of sacred defense in the hot trenches of the south or the snow-filled trenches of the west of the country, used all their might to neutralize the sinister plans of the enemies of Islam, and who today, because they have no connections, are lined up behind the closed doors of these offices. For example, my constituency, that is, Masjed Soleyman and its surrounding areas, is faced with an unemployment rate announced as 36 percent by the Office of Labor and Social Affairs of the Province of Khuzestan, and 30 percent have false jobs, a total of 66 percent unemployment. Here the question is, shall we sit by and do nothing until this great capital of the revolution is devoured by the dealers in death or deviant elements and we some day find them behind prison bars?

The deputy from Masjed Soleyman also said: Following the direct talks, I ask President Hashemi to give the appropriate orders to eliminate the unruly elements and connections in the offices. I ask for your attention in regard to the elimination of unemployment among the youth, especially the young people in the above-mentioned region.

In conclusion, he thanked the minister of health for visiting the Khuzestan region and Mr. Beshareti for allocating foreign currency to this region.

Seyyed Mohammad Reza Mavalizadeh, Deputy From Ahvaz

Seyyed Mohammad Reza Mavalizadeh, from Ahvaz, was the last pre-agenda speaker. He said: A few days remain until 13 Aban [4 Nov], the anniversary of the Imam's exile, Student Day, and the anniversary of the capture of the spy nest, occasions that, on the one hand, show the true nature of the Great Satan and, on the other, express the movement and struggle of the Imam and our Islamic nation. Now, with the Marxist ideology coming to a dead end in the world arena and the disintegration of the socialist regime of the Soviet Union, the United States considers itself the absolute undisputed power in the world. The use of the deceptive tool of human rights, influence over international agencies, the relative domination of the world markets, especially the oil market, the Persian Gulf war, and frightening the weak and hollow leaders of many countries of the world have strengthened this false notion about the United States. He added: Under such circumstances and while the majority of the countries have left the field of serious struggle against the oppressors and have given in to compromise and dependency, it is obligatory for us as an alert and combative nation to remain steadfastly on our anti-oppressive stance and more than ever before take steps to expose the policies of the Great Satan and humiliate it. Now, the United States considers the world a village in which only one system must rule, which is the new world order, an order that has no definition but oppression, coercion, dictatorship, corruption, destruction, death, and the elimination of the dignity, identity, and generosity of human beings and absolute dependence on the Great Satan. The United States imagines that the whole world belongs to it and it can occupy any region that it wishes in any manner that it wants. A clear example was its bullying presence in the Persian Gulf region.

In this connection, the grand leader said: The United States intends, in several more years, to have the important, sensitive, vital Persian Gulf region, which is needed by the world, under its control.

The deputy of Ahvaz also added: The Americans, despite having said earlier that they did not intend to stay in Kuwait, are today building a base and planning for a long presence in the region. They were lying, and today, as well, they are lying about their support for human rights, friendship with Iran and the nations in the region, and not fighting Islam. They are the dangerous enemy of Islam, Iran, and human rights. The United States wants to enslave the people of the region and dominate Iran as in the past. But this nation has awakened, and wherever possible shall stand against the will of the oppressive powers and shall be victorious through reliance on divine power. Aban 13 [4 Nov], the day of fighting global oppressors, headed by the world-devouring United States, is nigh. Let us, with our unified presence in the march on that day, display our revolutionary anti-American anger and hostility and during all the days next week, by exposing the Great Satan as much as possible, turn the hopes of the U.S. leaders of having peace and compromise with Iran into despair, and by active and expansive presence in the demonstrations, once again bring joy to the hearts of the oppressed in the world, crying out all the injustice, as the late Imam said, against the criminal United States.

Continuing, Mavalizadeh, referring to the province of Khuzestan, pointed out: The Province of Khuzestan, with an area of 67,000 square km and a population of more than 3.2 million and potential in agriculture, industries and mines; oil, gas, and petrochemicals; and port facilities and high water and electricity potential, is of particular importance. In fact, this province is one of the essential regions for the implementation of the large national projects intended by the serving government and the officials of the regime. The point to which little attention has been paid so far and to which more attention must be paid from now on is that, parallel to the implementation of these projects, we must offer general services, more than those offered in an area in which national projects are not carried out. In fact, the implementation of national projects without creating a proper location at that level may create many problems in the region, to which little attention has been paid so far.

He then explained: The vehicles that transport the imports and exports and the products resulting from the national projects, first, result in wear and tear on the roads, and, second, often cause tragic accidents. Also, the smoke from the burning off of oil well waste and toxic materials from the factories are most dangerous to the environment. The increase in market demand by the personnel that come to the province to work on the national projects, on the one hand, and the supply of goods, on the other, result in exceedingly high prices. In this connection, the increase in the rate of rental fees has, especially in recent months, doubled the burden on the oppressed classes in the province. The above problems bring us to the conclusion that, while emphasizing the necessity of carrying out the national projects as much as possible within the economic, social, and cultural programs, serious steps must be taken to increase general services to compensate for the instant and location-specific problems that are created as a result of these national projects.

He then said in regard to the city of Ahvaz: This city, with an area of about 10,000 square km in size and a population of 1.1 million, that is, more than one-third of the population of Khuzestan Province, is particularly important. Ahvaz was a center of very sensitive support, provisions, and services during the imposed war, and the martyr-nurturing people of this province played their role in the best possible manner in the years of the sacred

defense. The grand families of the martyrs, self-sacrificers, freed prisoners of war, combatants, and refugees of the imposed war comprise a large number of the Ahvaz residents. The pavement of the streets and roads in Ahvaz is blessed with the pure blood of hundreds of martyrs. Many mourning structures were erected on these streets, and now many of these streets are blessed with the names of martyrs. Hence, it is proper to look at this sacred city differently and to make an effort to develop and build it, with the help of the angelic spirits of these martyrs, in a religiously combative manner.

He mentioned to the executive officials the shortage of education space, health and treatment problems, the existence of unsafe roads, the lack of recreational and athletic facilities, the lack of job security for workers, unemployment, illiteracy, the extremely high prices of general foodstuff, housing problems, the lack of sufficient dormitories for students, the lack of drinking water, intercity and intracity transportation problems, the lack of libraries, the lack of an appropriate sewage system, and the lack of a sufficient number of bridges over the Karun River.

Ratifications

The only item on the agenda of yesterday's session of the Majles was the general points of the urgent proposal to attach two notes, as Notes 3 and 4, to Article 9 of the law on relations between landlords and tenants, which was ratified by the Majles with a decisive majority vote.

Article 9 of the above-mentioned law makes the court responsible to halt a verdict if eviction from a home will cause difficulty and hardship for the tenant.

This proposal necessitates a two-year extension of the deadline for the implementation of Article 9 concerning the refugees of the imposed war in government or private places.

The above-mentioned proposal considers refugee tenants subject to the law on difficulty and hardship as those whose residences have not yet been reconstructed and delivered by the headquarters for war region reconstruction. The Foundation for the Refugees of the Imposed War shall be responsible to announce when these refugees are no longer in difficulty and hardship. Note 3 of this proposal, which after the attachment of a suggestion was ratified, is as follows:

"In cases when the court issuance of a decree to evacuate the location used by a war refugee, due to the shortage of appropriate space, creates difficulty and hardship, it shall be obliged to avoid issuing an eviction ruling until the difficulty and hardship has been eliminated, within a maximum period of two years, from 3/7/1371 [25 Sep 1992]. This verdict is valid if the above-mentioned difficulty and hardship does not cause difficulty and hardship for the landlord."

The examination of the suggestions of the deputies and voting concerning Note 4 under Article 9 of the law on relations between landlords and tenants was postponed to the open session on next Sunday.

On the Margins of the Majles

The minister and leaving the Majles.

In the open session yesterday, Mr. Naderi, the deputy from Avoj and Bo'in-e Zahra, asked the minister of commerce about the uncontrolled entry of goods into the country and the fact that this action causes damage and loss to domestic products. Following the response of the minister, the above-mentioned deputy was not satisfied. Then, the minister spoke briefly and said: Mr. Naderi had a prepared statement, or someone had prepared it for him. He did not pay attention to any response and just read that note.

Mr. Naderi, then turning to Article 77 of the Majles bylaws, addressed the minister of commerce and said: As it is my duty as a deputy, I raised four questions and stated them most respectfully. The honorable minister, Mr. Vahaji, responded and spoke for 15 minutes. Legally, I had the right to ask questions. He accused me, on the sacred grounds of the Majles, of having read what was written by someone else. Many questions were not very technical or difficult, to have required me to have help from other people. Of course, a Majles deputy may make use of the experts existing in the country, and I did so. But he accused me. He did not respond to the question, and then he insulted me and ran away without awaiting my response. (Bravo by deputies.)

Dr. Ruhani, who presided over the session, said in this connection: The statement was made by the minister of commerce that a deputy makes a point and makes use of someone else's ideas. There is no problem then. The minister himself also speaks words that are not his own. The minister, too. For the minister, as well, experts and deputies prepare statements. Therefore, the issue that he (the minister) raised was not appropriate. The reason I gave him 10 seconds was to allow him to give an answer, if he had one. The time he had was too short to respond to four questions. But, unfortunately, the statements that he (the minister) made were not appropriate for the Majles and the honorable deputies of the Majles. (Bravo by deputies.)

It is interesting that in addition to the objections of several deputies to the unethical behavior of the minister of commerce toward the deputy of Bo'in-e Zahra and Avoj, Mr. Reza Rahimi, the deputy from Sanandaj, in a letter addressed to the speaker of the Majles, asked for a response by the minister of commerce in regard to insulting the above-mentioned deputy. The text of the letter is as follows.

Honorable Speaker of the Majles

Greetings. Based on Article 88 of the Constitution, please invite the honorable minister of commerce, in connection with insulting the Majles and his improper behavior, to respond to my questioning of his unjust

behavior toward the honorable deputy from Bo'in-e Zahra and Avoj and being disrespectful towards the sacred Majles.

Proposal To Examine Foreign Trips and Missions of National Officials

A number of Majles deputies from various committees and several members of the board of directors of the Majles recently prepared a proposal asking for an examination of the outcome of the various individual and collective trips and missions abroad by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

Based on this investigative proposal, the quality of the individual and collective trips and missions abroad in the past years by various organizations, agencies, and ministries will be examined.

According to the regulations of the Majles, the proposal of the deputies was examined by the Board of Directors and sent to the concerned committee. Members of the foreign policy committee, as well, approved the investigative proposal with a decisive vote, and it will probably be examined next week in the Majles.

The prevention of unnecessary expenditures and proper and appropriate use of foreign currency resources in the country constitute the main motivation for the preparers of the investigative proposal. It is interesting that so far reports on the foreign missions of a number of ministries and organizations, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Industries, and the Atomic Energy Agency, have been prepared and collected by those who submitted the investigative proposal.

Question by the Deputy of Bo'in-e Zahra to the Minister of Commerce

'Abdolhamid Naderi, the deputy from Avoj and Bo'in-e Zahra, asked of Vahaji, the minister of commerce, the following questions.

(1) The reason for not observing the import quota regarding the various tariffs on goods for which similar domestic products exist.
(2) The reason for not transferring the customs tariffs and commercial tax, considering the allocation of floating foreign currency, to raw materials and goods manufactured from the same material.
(3) The failure to implement Paragraph 3 of Article 14 of the guild system law concerning price labeling of goods and services.
(4) The failure to implement Paragraph 4 of Article 14 of the guild system law concerning the presentation of official sales receipts.

Response of the Minister of Commerce

Mr. Vahaji first said concerning the first question of the deputy from Bo'in-e Zahra:

The program for the items that are set and required in the foreign currency budget is clear, and the ministries and import organizations engage in this action. Especially with regard to the essential goods, the decision-making authority is the honorable Economic Council, which makes decisions appropriate to the level of production (level of imported wheat, cooking oil, sugar, and so on). But this does not mean that if the Economic Council determines the level of essential goods, the country will not need that item, even though with another foreign currency, such as the floating foreign currency, and through the transfer of foreign currency there may not be a need for it to be imported. Hence, in order to fill the demands and to ensure that the people have more comforts, the government permitted imports without the transfer of government foreign currency, and the Ministry of Commerce is in charge of it. It announces the list of items. In connection with the import of rice, I mentioned here that rice must be imported for the prices to be modified.

He then added: I do not believe there should be a quota for imported goods unless there is an unexpected incident in the trend of import of goods and economic issues. Then this must be prevented. The creation of any sort of quota and permit per case will inflict government organizations with a series of problems that cannot be corrected unless it is reformed from the root.

When there are quotas, the way for concessions, bribery, etc. will be open to some, and some will not benefit.

In continuation, the minister of commerce asked for the reform of the system of imports and domestic production, and in this connection he enumerated the problems of domestic production and pointed out:

(1) The low quality of the product could not and cannot compete with imported goods.
(2) The surplus expenditures that exist in factories in foreign countries. If we want to be competitive, we must reform the economic system of production and commerce, because it is impossible to just direct the sharp edge of attack toward commerce and imports but ignore production.
(3) Control of the cost and quality of domestic goods.
(4) The need for reform of management in order for domestic production to be able to compete with imported goods. But the question here is whether under our present conditions all the production units and all domestic production can compete with imported goods at equal foreign currency rates. I say, no. While we must create competition in order for production to be able to grow in a healthy economy, raise quality, reduce costs, and create a competent management to supervise production, the imported goods must have a mechanism of customs taxes in order to clarify the protection factor of production.

In regard to commercial taxes, the minister of commerce pointed out: In revising commercial taxes, we devise the chart from the viewpoint of the consumer. But the industrial ministries devise it from the point of view of

production. In fact, we will present the government Economic Committee with a balanced factor which, God willing, will be approved.

In regards to labels on goods, he said: We raised this issue with the guilds, and the guilds are preparing a plan to be the basis of our work. Fortunately, we are happy that some guild units have done it. In this connection, the guilds have made announcements to the unions. God willing, the unions will soon announce it to their own guild units, so that these kinds of labels will be made in order to have more control over prices.

In conclusion, he emphasized: If a guild unit commits a violation, the judicial brand is responsible to investigate it and not the Ministry of Commerce. We are responsible to coordinate this work.

Further Explanation by the Deputy From Bo'in-e Zahra

Naderi, the deputy from Bo'in-e Zahra further explained his question and said: The honorable government decided to announce higher rate foreign currency to import raw materials. Raw materials for similar manufactured goods were granted credit opening at a similar foreign currency rate. These kinds of factories manufacturing these products, considering the absence of customs tariffs and appropriate commercial taxes, lost their competitive power. This is while:

(1) Goods are sometimes bought in bulk or by the warehouse, at a price sometimes one-fifth to one-third the original price.

(2) Goods are imported from Kish Island by passengers (every passenger, 5,000 tomans) at fixed minimum customs duties. For example, the government has assessed a difference of 500 tomans per meter for serge fabric in addition to customs duties and commercial taxes. But, unfortunately, the professional importers purchase the travelers' permits from the Kish quota and import the same serge fabric in commercial volume through Kish without paying these high costs, with no reduced price on the market.

(3) In the past 80 days, we have witnessed that as soon as Iranian raisins entered the neighboring rival market, that is, Turkey, and aroused the protests of the Turkish raisin manufacturers, the entry of Iranian raisins to that country was prohibited. The European Common Market, which is the cradle of free trade, in order to support raisins from Greece, which is dependent on the market, imposed about 250 DM per ton in customs duties on importers of this item, which Iranian importers must pay in order to support Greek farmers.

Naderi then criticized the point that the minister of commerce had made in connection with not determining the quota of importers and said: When you do not observe the quota for importers, how can you support domestic products? Then you shall see that with the foreign currency, these people will import various kinds of luxury items, such as cosmetics, soft drinks, and chocolate, into the market in abundance. The duties of the Ministry of Commerce include the procurement of essential goods, yet we see that the people and the country are facing shortages. Concerning his belief that quotas must be imposed on goods, the deputies and the people will have to be the judge.

In regard to his second question, about "customs tariffs and commercial taxes," he pointed out: Customs tariffs and commercial taxes are a lever in the hands of the honorable minister of commerce to create a balance in the prices of imported goods and domestic products. If this balance is not made, you will face the same problems in the future that you are facing now.

Concerning his next question on price labels, the deputy from Bo'in-e Zahra said: According to the guild law (ratified by the Majles), the sellers of goods are obliged to place price labels on their goods and in their place of business for services. Also, sellers are obliged to sell their goods observing the official receipts. These two policies are normal methods that operate in all countries with a free economy, the least effect of which is that the buyer, before negotiating with the seller, sees the price of the goods and, by comparing the high and low prices, will be able to reach a conclusion without any conflict. Psychologically and in terms of the market policy, this system, that is, the regular offering of prices in public view, will regulate prices on the market more than 50 percent.

In conclusion, the deputy from Bo'in-e Zahra was not satisfied with the response to his questions of the minister of commerce, and the questions were referred to the Committee on Article 90.

Reminders of Majles Deputies to the Executive Officials

Mr. Pishbin (deputy from Baft) to the minister of petroleum and the minister of construction jihad concerning the establishment of the necessary funds for the natural gas pipelines in the city of Baft and the projects for the next year as well as the establishment of a migration headquarters in every city to attend to the affairs of the tribes.

Mr. Habibian, the deputy from Hamadan, to the minister of economic affairs and finance and the minister of agriculture concerning the reason for the reduction in the established salary difference in accordance with the coordinated salary system for the employees of the Hamadan Education Department and the prevention of increased destruction of the agricultural soil in Hamadan by brick kilns.

Mr. Bahrami (deputy from Masjed Suleyman) to the minister of roads and transport in regard to expediting the construction of the Central Baghmalek-Haftgel road.

Mr. Qomi (deputy from Varamin) to the minister of justice and the minister of petroleum concerning the completion of the administrative and judicial cadre of the Justice Department of Varamin and expediting the natural gas outreach to the suburbs of Pashva in Varamin.

Mr. Sho'leh-Sa'di (deputy from Shiraz) to the minister of justice to determine the supervisory committee and expedite the election of the board of directors of the Justice Department Attorneys Center of the Capital.

Mr. Tatari (deputy from Kermanshah) to the minister of industries to revise the administration of industries in the province.

Proposal for Judicial Support for the Mobilization Force

Following the statements of the leader concerning overall support for the Mobilization, a Joint Committee on Defense, Legislative, and Judicial Affairs offered a proposal called the proposal for judicial support for the Mobilization, which is worthy of praise. In this connection, two deputies, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Alavi and Hojjat ol-Eslam Baghani, deputies from Gorgan and Tehran, took part in an interview with our reporter and offered their views about the proposal.

Views of Mr. 'Alavi

Two issues are important in regards to this proposal.

A. The legal position of the Mobilization forces.

B. How to support them.

With regard to the first issue, we all know that the Mobilization forces, due to their alertness, are more concerned than any other institution and with full awareness watch for suspicious events. But, because the timely reaction of these brothers and sisters was not legal, they could not become involved in action. Sometimes a Mobilization brother could do nothing but suffer when he witnessed suspicious or deviant behavior by an official.

But with this law, the Mobilization brothers will enter the scene of action as do other Justice Department officials, the difference being that these brothers will directly take steps to prevent the destruction of evidence and seek help from the officials of the Justice Department to pursue the matter, and the officials will be obliged to cooperate.

The second issue concerns support for these brothers and sisters. Any confrontation with them while they are doing their duty will be considered a crime subject to prosecution. The Mobilization forces can also serve in this new capacity in addition to carrying out their Mobilization duties, which is to protect the foundation of the regime of the Islamic Republic.

This does not mean that they are interfering in the executive work of the honorable officials, because they are acting in accordance with the law and within the law. How could one accept that an institution that is itself a protector of the law and oversees its proper implementation could act contrary to the law?

Views of Mr. Baghani

In response to the question of what the main reason is for offering the proposal for judicial support for the Mobilization forces in the Majles, Hojjat ol-Eslam Baghani said: The main goal of this proposal is to fight the cultural invasion instigated by the global oppressors after finishing their lopsided war against us, and also the disintegration of the Marxist system, which resulted in the world becoming one-dimensional. With this weapon, they are trying to culturally fight Islam, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Emphasizing that fighting the cultural invasion certainly requires an overall struggle, he said: Just as we engaged in defense in the imposed war, and our self-sacrificing forces, especially the Mobilization, who were comprised mostly of brave young people, made sacrifices in fighting oppression, at the present time, in the cultural invasion launched against us by the global oppressors, we must engage in defense.

He added: In the cultural invasion, our defense forces must be the self-sacrificing young people who make up the Mobilization forces, because the main target of this invasion is the young people of the country. Hojjat ol-Eslam Baghani then explained that in the Fourth Majles, following the instructions of the grand leader, who upon seeing the cultural invasion precisely determined that the instruction to do good and prevent evil is a general duty and that the Mobilization, this sincere force, must be used as cultural blood, this proposal for judicial support for the Mobilization forces was offered.

Then, regarding the question of to what extent this proposal can cover the instructions of the grand leader in terms of overall support for the Mobilization, the head of the Judicial Committee of the Majles pointed out: The proposal for judicial support for the Mobilization forces, which, God willing, will be ratified this week in the Majles in the second round of discussions, presents the Mobilization resistance force as officials of the judicial branch in dealing with crimes, who will take measures to prevent the destruction of criminal evidence.

He explained: According to this proposal, when the Mobilization forces arrest an offender, they will act as law enforcement officials, especially since the grand leader in his recent statements said, "If I see them misbehave with regard to the issue of the instruction to do good and prevent evil, I shall take steps personally."

Also, the above-mentioned proposal states that any sort of insult or injury to persons cited in this law while on duty shall be considered an insult to the Justice Department officials, and violators shall be prosecuted.

Referring to statements of the leader concerning the instruction to do good and prevent evil as a duty conferred on all Hezbollah forces, he said: The proposal for judicial support for the Mobilization forces has not been devised in such a way as to place this duty only on the resistant forces of the Guard Corps, but the Hezbollah forces can do so, as well, as long as they do not disrupt the regulations, and no one has the right to insult them.

According to Hojjat al-Eslam Bagheri, "The proposal to clarify the instruction to do good and prevent evil and its interpretation" will soon be prepared by the Judicial Committee of the Majles and offered to the Majles.